



# e-PPS

Pioneering the e-Procurement Era

## Product Presentation

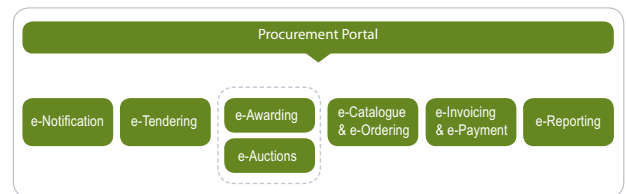
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# 01. Pioneering the e-Procurement Era

EUROPEAN DYNAMICS is a leading European Information and Communications Technology company, operating through its offices in Greece, Belgium, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Serbia, Romania, Germany, Spain, Sweden, UK and Tunisia. The company employs over 400 highly qualified engineers and ICT scientists and offers its services to the public and private sector in 27 countries world-wide. Customers include government institutions, multinational corporations, public administrations and research and academic institutes. EUROPEAN DYNAMICS has extended expertise in the areas of e-Government, e-Business, e-Procurement, e-Collaboration, groupware and workflow, content, document and knowledge management, communications middleware, network management, ICT security, broadband and mobile applications. Several software products and tools have been developed in these domains and they are used by over 100.000 users world-wide. All the products and services are offered for web, intranet and Internet environments and are based on open architectures and state-of-the-art technologies.

EUROPEAN DYNAMICS has developed the e-PPS suite, an open, secure, interoperable and re-configurable e-procurement platform offered as open source software with several installations in the EU and internationally. The e-PPS electronic procurement platform and associated components use open standards and fully comply with both national and EU legislation on public procurement. The system supports interaction between citizens, businesses, and public administrations, optimises public procurement by re-engineering and fully automating the applicable processes.



The e-PPS suite offers:

- **Procurement Portal:** Front End Graphical User Interface layout for all high-level functionalities described below, along with configurable secondary functionalities, such as news, Frequently Asked Questions and an online help service.  
  
The service supports the registration of Contracting Authorities (buyers) and Economic Operators (suppliers). It provides the functionality to manage accounts as well as to authenticate the users to access the system.
- **e-Notification:** Supports the automated procedure to publish contract notices in the Official Journal of the EU and other publication boards. Furthermore, it supports easy electronic access to tender documents and clarifications.
- **e-Tendering:** Supports the submission of tenders, either via the web system or via an independent, standalone application. The system provides the capability of automatic validation of electronic proposals, in order for the suppliers to be able to receive immediate feedback in their proposals.
- **e-Awarding:** Supports the opening and evaluation of tenders, in line with the related legal regulations. The proposals evaluation is achieved with the use of the established methods (Most Financially Profitable Proposal or according to the Lowest Price criterion), while the evaluation procedure can include the conducting of e-Auctions.
- **e-Auctions:** A dynamic subsystem which supports the receipt of improved tenders, through the use of electronic auction events.
- **e-Catalogues & e-Ordering:** Supports the use of catalogue-based tenders in order to facilitate e-Ordering and purchasing of products.
- **e-Invoicing & e-Payment:** Supports the electronic issuing and processing of invoices and payments.
- **e-Reporting:** A data warehousing subsystem which is used to generate configurable reports.

## Security

e-PPS platform ensures the equal treatment of all financial institutions and the transparency of the competitions by adopting recognized and acceptable models related to the protection of sensitive information.

## Time-stamping

In order to record the exact time when a tender is submitted, and to avoid any disputes or even objections, the e-PPS platform may use the services of an independent time-stamping authority. The exact time of the submission of a tender is stored in the database of the independent authority and also sent to the Economic Operator.

e-PPS is fully compliant to the European legislation on Public Procurement (e.g. Directives 2004/17/EC & 2004/18/EC and their amendments).

e-PPS is fully customisable to support specific functionalities addressing any practices followed at local, regional or national level.

## 02. Indicative references in the field of e-Procurement

2003:

### SIMAP e-Tendering

Implementation of a prototype collaborative e-procurement environment, for awarding authorities and their economic operators experimenting with the procurement functionality and procedures associated with the different stages of e-Procurement, according to the EU public procurement Directive 2004/18/EC.

2004:

### IDABC e-Procurement Studies and Demonstrators

Creation of common technical specifications and working demonstrators to be easily reused by operators wishing to develop e-Procurement platforms in compliance with the EU public procurement legislation in order to improve interoperability.

### e-PPS

Development of the e-PPS e-Procurement platform. Implementation of prototypes and parameterised tools for simulating the different e-Procurement stages and awarding procedures, as prescribed by the new European legislative framework. Localisation in English, French, German, Dutch and Greek.

### OPOCE e-Notices

Implementation of the multilingual e-Notices portal to facilitate the authoring by Public Administrations across the EU of the e-Notices forms to be published on the TED portal of the European Commission.

### EMED-TDS B2B Platform

Development of a B2B platform aimed to create an e-Market network in the Euro-Mediterranean region for introducing suppliers to buyers from 15 nations.

2005:

### Belgium Government e-Tendering

Design, development and commissioning of an e-Tendering platform for use by public organisations in Belgium.

2006:

### e-Procurement Pilot in Jordan

Preparation and introduction of a sustainable e-Procurement solution in Jordan. Developing of a pilot to demonstrate the feasibility of implementing electronic procurement procedures.

### e-Notifications Feasibility Study for the European Commission

Concerning optimum transmission of the procurement notices by contracting authorities and entities intended for publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

### e-Catalogues Feasibility Study for the EC DG MARKT

Consultancy services on the use of electronic catalogues in the field of e-Government and e-Procurement in the EU.

2007:

### Belgium Government e-Catalogues

Design and delivery of an e-Catalogues application allowing the procurement of goods and services for the Belgian Federal government.

### Belgium Government e-Notices

Design and delivery of an e-Notifications application allowing Contracting Authorities in Belgium to publish contract notifications.

### Republic of Cyprus full e-Procurement Solution

Introduction, application and deployment of a global solution for the implementation of electronic public procurement in Cyprus.

# 03. e-PPS Logical Architecture

The logical architecture of e-PPS comprises core and e-Procurement specific modules. These modules constitute the fundamental parts for the development and functioning of a whole procurement cycle. The core modules support core functionalities necessary for all e-Procurement implementations, regardless of their underlying legal or regional framework. The e-Procurement specific modules support specific functionality, relying on the adaptation of core modules for achieving a customised result reflecting the needs of the client (e.g. e-Tendering and Dynamic Purchasing System).

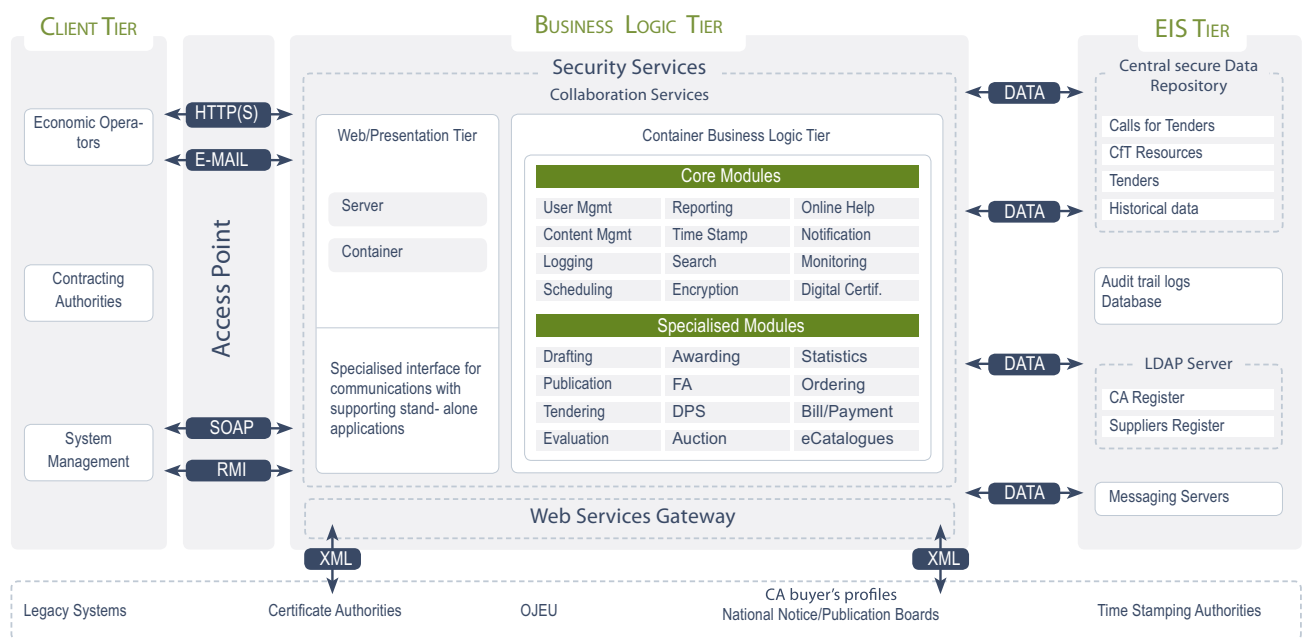
The e-PPS platform follows a three-tier architectural approach comprising of:

- the web/presentation tier
- the business logic tier
- the Enterprise Information System (EIS) tier.

All e-PPS implementations constitute web-based applications and demonstrate high user-friendliness. This practically means that ordinary users with an Internet-enabled workstation and with basic exposure to IT can easily use the application.

Apart from web-based clients, the e-PPS platform can deploy stand-alone desktop applications for specific operations, such as the creation of tenders.

The client tier consists of client graphical user interface that allow users to invoke activities within the context of the system for completing procurement processes. The activities and the data made available to users are regulated by an advanced security module associating user accounts to user roles and access rights. The requests initiated in the client tier are transmitted to the business tier (web servers), which in turn invokes respective Business Logic services (application servers). The system, following the execution of the built-in business logic, responds to the client, returning appropriate results. The EIS tier provides the required system infrastructure and software for storing data and communicating with various hardware/software components such as user authentication servers (LDAP) and mail servers. The various system services, components, core modules and e-Procurement specific modules, along with a high-level description of each tier of the e-PPS platform are outlined in the following figure.



## 04. Contact Information

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