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PRESS RELEASE

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Successful cross-border exchange of messages in e-Tendering

The reality of seamless cross-border e-Tendering is one step nearer, thanks to the successful exchange of pre-award tender information via the [e-SENS e-Delivery Building Block](#).

The hands-on testing, conducted as part of an e-Tendering pilot, has proven it is possible to connect tendering systems and exchange messages across country borders.

This connectivity has been made possible via an e-Delivery solution of e-SENS, a multi-million euro private sector and EU collaborative project which is working to ensure the interoperability of online services in economy sectors such as procurement, health, business and justice with functionality implemented and supported through the use of cross-domain IT 'building blocks'.

Three tendering systems from Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands respectively, are connected via two e-Delivery gateways and successfully sending and receiving messages to each other as a part of implementing the 'Subscribe to procedure' business process. The messages are based on European standards developed in the CEN workshop BII and on Business Interoperability Specifications (BIS) developed and maintained in cooperation with OpenPEPPOL, as part of the e-Procurement domain governance framework. The BII workshop forges agreements on the documents and processes used in e-Procurement, supporting EU-wide interoperability while removing the need for bilateral agreements between trading partners.

e-Tendering is a piloting use case within e-Procurement domain, one of several piloting areas of e-SENS where technical solutions are being tested in 'real life' environments.

The testing, conducted in the first phase of the e-Tendering pilot, has proven that the IT architecture is working smoothly. In particular, it has demonstrated the use of several Architectural Building Blocks (ABBs) of the e-SENS architecture:

- Tendering systems can connect to gateways (back-end integration ABB);
- Tendering systems can send and receive messages (document provisioning ABB);
- Gateways can connect to other gateways (message exchange ABB);
- Gateways discover each other in order to send and receive messages (capability look-up ABB);
- The structure of each message (header and payload) can be processed by Tendering systems and Gateways (SBDH and Identifiers – document routing ABB);
- Tendering systems can process the content of the message.





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The successful testing of information exchange paves the way for the second phase of the e-Tendering pilot in e-SENS and makes it possible to extend the type of messages to cover further business processes. In the next stage, suppliers will be able to access procurement documents and submit tenders electronically. New countries, such as Portugal and Norway already declared to join the e-Tendering pilot in the second phase.

More information about the project: www.esens.eu

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