

Recognising excellence

The achievements of public sector procurement practitioners were recognised at the well-established National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD) event on 6 June 2006, which was combined with the presentation of the annual Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards.

Over 200 procurement professionals gathered at the prestigious One Great George Street venue in central London to attend the GO Awards and celebrate public sector procurement excellence as part of N3PD, organised by BiP Solutions and sponsored by GO magazine, Constructionline, Visa Commercial and Supply2.gov.uk and supported by a wide range of public sector bodies.

This year, N3PD was hosted by Vivien Creegor, anchor newsreader of Sky World News, and featured high-profile speakers Charlie McCreevy, European Commissioner and Head of the EU's Internal Market and Services and Sir Digby Jones, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr McCreevy said that commitment to turning policy into reality was crucial to the efficient development and implementation of successful public procurement: "The economic importance of public procurement is, above all, a dynamic phenomenon. It goes without saying that even-wider participation in a system that lowers prices can bring a positive impact on major macroeconomic indicators and enhance the performance of the EU economy as a whole."

Sir Digby outlined why business is interested in public procurement and how business can contribute to its improvement. He added: "Ensuring good procurement methods is central to the provision of good public services. Ineffective procurement means ineffective services and this is something the public should not - and will not - tolerate. Government at all levels must therefore attach the utmost importance to the competitiveness, productivity and value for money public procurement delivers."

This year's GO Award winners were as follows:

Lifetime Achievement Award

- David Smith, Department for Work and Pensions

Individual Procurement Excellence Award

- Mel Jones, Exeter City Council

A full list of prizewinners can be found at www.n3pd.com

N3PD also raised £6170 for the British Heart Foundation and a cheque was presented to BHF representative Maureen Betts by Ron Burges, CEO of N3PD event organisers BiP Solutions.

Rounding up the event, GO Managing Editor Grahame Steed said: "N3PD 2006 has proved to be another great success, and our thanks go to the supporters, sponsors and individuals who made it a day to remember for the procurement profession. Charlie McCreevy and Sir Digby Jones also contributed with their insightful addresses, and we now have an even stronger platform to build on for N3PD 2007. Congratulations go to all the GO Awards winners and those who were highly commended: on the evidence of their achievements the future of public procurement is in safe hands."

Plans are in place for N3PD 2007, and the organisers are confident that many more procurement organisations and public bodies will join in recognising and rewarding the efforts of public procurement practitioners across the UK.

For further information on N3PD 2006 and the GO Awards, please visit www.n3pd.com