

NEWS RELEASE

12 SEPTEMBER 2006

TOP SCOT HONOURED AT MAJOR GLASGOW CONFERENCE

One of Scotland's top public procurement specialists is set to be honoured at a major conference to be held in Glasgow this week.

Ronnie McLean, who has been Director of the Paisley-based Authorities Buying Consortium (**abc**) since it was established in 1996, will be presented with *Government Opportunities (GO)* magazine's 'Tace Aut Face' Award.

The Award honours outstanding contributions made by exceptional individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to public procurement and society, giving real meaning to the profession's values. The recipient of this honour is decided by an advisory panel made up of leading UK public procurement professionals, representing all public sectors, and who are highly respected experts in their field.

Mr McLean is the first to receive this prestigious award, which will be presented to him at **abc**'s annual conference, 'Collaborating for Change'. The event will take place at Hampden Park on Wednesday 13 September.

Mr McLean said: "I was delighted to hear that I am to receive the Award - it feels absolutely great, particularly as the recognition is coming from the people that matter to you – it's the community that you have worked in for the best part of your life."

Procurement has been recognised by the Scottish Executive as one of the main platforms for making savings in the public sector. Better, more efficient procurement has the potential to release millions of pounds of funding, to be redirected into frontline services.

The 'Collaborating for Change' conference will debate some of the key issues around the requirement for change and provide delegates with thought-provoking views on the need for, and management of, change in procurement in the public sector.

Grahame Steed, Managing Editor of *GO* magazine – which is also media partner for the conference - said: "'Tace Aut Face' translates as 'be silent or do' and Ronnie McLean has, throughout his career, been one of those who do. I am sure procurement professionals will be inspired by the formidable example set by his illustrious record in procurement, and I am pleased to present the 'Tace Aut Face' Award to him on behalf of *GO* magazine.

"Effective and efficient public procurement is one of the major issues facing local authorities in Scotland today. The good work done by the Authorities Buying Consortium, and individuals such as Ronnie McLean, will ensure that the many challenges it presents are met."

ENDS

Notes for editors:

To receive press passes to the event, please contact Denise Timney on 0141 270 7323

The 'Tace Aut Face' Annual Award:

The *Government Opportunities (GO)* 'Tace Aut Face' Award honours the outstanding contribution made by exceptional individuals whose careers are a challenge to those who follow. The honour is bestowed by the GO Editorial Advisory Board to individuals who are worthy role models, near the end of their formal careers in procurement or retired, and have made significant and lasting contributions to public procurement and society, giving real meaning to the profession's values.

About GO magazine:

- contains news and features on public sector procurement, strategy, directives and developments - essential information for any company working with or within the public sector
- reaches a target audience of more than 24,000 readers
- includes articles by and interviews with key industry personnel, including Government Ministers, MPs and procurement officers throughout the public sector

About the Authorities Buying Consortium (**abc**):

- is the largest non-profit making purchasing agency in Scotland, serving the buying needs of the public sector, charities and voluntary organisations
- has ten years' experience in managing a collaborative approach to procurement
- has contributed in excess of £30 million of contract savings to councils

'Collaborating for Change 2006' is organised by BiP Solutions Ltd on behalf of **abc**.

Useful links:

GO magazine	www.govopps.co.uk
abc	www.abc-scotland.org.uk
BiP Solutions	www.bipsolutions.com

Issued by BiP Solutions Ltd on behalf of the Authorities Buying Consortium

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