

NEWS RELEASE

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Constructionline and BiP Sign Mutual Agreement

Constructionline, the UK's register of pre-qualified local and national construction-related service providers and contractors, and BiP Solutions Ltd, a provider of public sector contract information, have signed a mutual agreement which will help streamline the procurement process for both organisations' users.

Under the agreement, public sector buyers who access BiP's Delta e-tendering solution will also be able to view Constructionline's pre-qualified supplier list at no additional costs. As a result, Delta-registered buyers such as local authorities will reap a range of benefits including improved efficiencies through Constructionline's single, common source of information, enabling easy comparison of suppliers. Buyers will also have the reassurance that all pre-qualified suppliers have been assessed to a single, government-approved standard.

In return, Constructionline will be integrated into BiP's Delta e-tendering solution, resulting in Constructionline's suppliers' details being viewed by more public sector buyers at no extra cost to suppliers. Suppliers may also gain access to more contract opportunities under the arrangement; and may be able to reduce their marketing activity and cost.

Denis Walker, Director, Construction Sector at the Department of Trade and Industry, which owns Constructionline, said: "We are delighted by the possibilities of this alliance. BiP offers suppliers and buyers access to one of the largest databases of current open contract opportunities. This new relationship will deliver the Constructionline message – using the central register helps support suppliers' profitability by cutting out their cost of responding to bespoke client data requests – to more public sector buyers. It may also give Constructionline-registered suppliers exposure to a wider range of work opportunities."

Constructionline aims to reduce the administrative burden that suppliers face when tendering for work with public and private sector buyers. Where buyers use the register, suppliers can divert administrative resource elsewhere in their businesses, rather than on completing individual pre-qualification questionnaires for each tender bid.

BiP Chief Executive Ron Burges said: "We are very excited by the benefits this mutual cooperation agreement can bring to our respective companies and clients. Through this relationship with Constructionline, a nationally recognised accreditation service, we can help the thousands of buyers and suppliers who use our services to increase their efficiency and reduce costs."

The Constructionline database is regularly accessed by over 1,500 buyers including local authorities, housing associations and NHS trusts. The online system has been designed so that buyers can view details concerning individual suppliers or produce lists based on specific criteria. The system has a range of search facilities including areas of operation, geographical location, financial capability and trade association membership.

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For further information please contact:

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Notes to editors:

Constructionline:

Constructionline is the UK's register of pre-qualified local and national construction service providers and contractors. Owned by the DTI and managed by Capita, it offers commercial gains to public and private sector procurers and construction suppliers, by improving efficiency, helping streamline procedures, and supplying clients with centrally maintained data about firms to use at the start of the procurement process.

Further information on Constructionline can be found at www.constructionline.co.uk

Delta:

BiP Solutions' Delta-ets is a seamless public sector tendering solution from contract notice conception, through buyer and supplier exchanges, to contract award.

Delta-ets is an EU-compliant solution which delivers reduced risk e-tendering in a fully secured, managed and audited environment and is supported by BiP Solutions, Europe's leading exponent of public procurement solutions.

The Capita Group Plc is the UK's leading provider of integrated professional support service solutions. The Group's service capabilities encompass customer services, financial services, human resources services, software services, systems and strategic support and property services delivered to both public sector and private organisations. With over 23,000 employees at more than 230 offices across the UK and Ireland, Capita is quoted on the London Stock Exchange (CPI.L), and is a constituent of the FTSE100 with revenues for 2004 of £1285 million.

Capita has secured a number of awards including Best BPO Outsourcing Services Provider 2004.

BiP Solutions Ltd is Europe's leading provider of public sector procurement information, offering suppliers and buyers access to what is probably the world's largest database of current open contract opportunities, including the OJEU. The company also provides technical and contract procedural support, e-tendering procurement systems and a range of consultancy and training services to assist both public and private sector organisations in the procurement process.

More information on BiP Solutions Ltd can be found at www.bipsolutions.com