



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SOPO hits the right buttons for suppliers**

The Society of Procurement Officers in Local Government (SOPO) has been working with its partners BiP Solutions to create a pre-qualification service for buyers and suppliers.

The Executive Committee of SOPO have agreed to endorse the Select Accredited system run by BiP, which will put SOPO at the heart of delivering efficiency savings for local government and their suppliers. Select Accredited allows suppliers to complete a single pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) for all local government buyers to access. Suppliers will no longer be required to repeatedly submit separate PQQs, thereby saving time and resources.

SOPO will create a Select Accredited Certificate for suppliers registering through the gateway, which will raise awareness of SOPO's role as a leader in the drive for procurement efficiency.

John Scowen, SOPO immediate past Chairman, states: "I have been working on this over the past two years as my promise to suppliers and procurement officers in local government. At last we have seen the fruits of our labour and I encourage all local government procurement officers and suppliers to embrace this new accreditation system. This will make significant non-cashable savings to your council and show the supplier community that we really care about using the public purse effectively and efficiently."

The Select Certify system is 'free' to suppliers and contractors; however, to be accredited there is a charge which is comparable to the fee for Constructionline accreditation. A guide to the use of the system will be available online.

The Select Accredited online system will be demonstrated at the SOPO Annual Conference and Exhibition on 8 November 2006 at the Novotel Convention Centre, Hammersmith, London.

**ENDS**