

NEWS RELEASE

BiP APPOINTS CAPITA FOR NEW SERVICE

BiP Solutions Ltd, Europe's leading provider of public sector procurement solutions, is pleased to announce that it has appointed the Capita Group as the service provider of its new supplier accreditation service.

The public sector needs assurance that potential suppliers are suitable to tender for their contract opportunities in terms of supplier's legal, financial and technical capacity. A formalised mechanism for assessment for 'pre-qualification' is an integral part of the public sector tendering exercise.

The new Select Accredited service, which is endorsed by the Society of Procurement Officers in local government (SOPO) identifies a supplier's fitness to tender for public sector contract opportunities and is commonly referred to as 'pre-qualification'. This is an essential element of a public contracting authority's risk management.

Capita is already well established in the field of supplier accreditation as it administers the DTI-owned Constructionline service.

Announcing the agreement between the companies Ron Burges, Chief Executive of BiP Solutions, said: "With its established name and reputation, Capita is the perfect service provider for Select.

"Capita's track record as a service provider will allow BiP to provide, through the new platform, our registered suppliers and buyers with a robust, highly efficient and cost-effective service.

Warwick Gooch, Director for Capita, said: "Capita is very pleased to be providing this new pre-qualification service to BiP. Capita has developed specialised knowledge and IT systems to provide back office services for pre-qualification. This agreement will ensure that BiP is well-placed to meet the changing needs of suppliers and buyers in line with a variety of government-led e-procurement initiatives."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

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

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.

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