



NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrating Excellence in Public Procurement

Dr Neil Bentley, Director of Public Services at the Confederation for British Industry (CBI), has been confirmed as keynote speaker for National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD) 2007.

Dr Bentley is responsible for leading the development of the CBI's contribution to the public service reform agenda, promoting in particular the role of diverse, competitive and contestable supply markets in raising standards and delivering better value for money. Dr Bentley works closely with the CBI's Public Services Strategy Board to set the direction for the CBI's campaign and leads on communications with government and other stakeholders in reform.

Dr Bentley will join a number of highly-respected speakers, including Sir Michael Lyons at N3PD on 6 June in Central London - one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the public sector procurement calendar, celebrating the success of those working within this vital sector.

It also encompasses the announcement of the results of the annual *Government Opportunities (GO)* magazine Excellence in Public Procurement Awards.

Organised by market-leading procurement specialists BiP Solutions Ltd, the GO Awards honour the role of procurement personnel and the part they play in delivering effective public services.

Bringing together representatives from local authorities, public services, utilities and community initiatives, as well as the private sector, the GO Awards recognise the efforts made to deliver ever-improving procurement services. Benefits to the taxpayer through more efficient spending and innovative procurement methods can mean more nurses in hospitals, more police officers on the streets and even lower council tax bills.

Dr Bentley said: "Effective public procurement must be at the heart of the public service reform process, and this is why I'm greatly looking forward to N3PD.

"The UK will only get the best bang for its procurement buck if the skills and experience of the public and private sectors are brought together. This means engaging in the sort of dialogue that N3PD is aimed at stimulating. I look forward to the event and to discussing how procurement professionals can work to help deliver the public services people want and deserve."

Grahame Steed, Managing Editor of GO magazine, said he was delighted that Dr Bentley would be addressing delegates at the event. "Public procurement is at its most effective when the public and private sectors work together to deliver the services taxpayers need. That the CBI is again supporting the event, and providing one of its key figures to address delegates, is a fantastic endorsement of N3PD."

- Further information on N3PD and the GO Awards can be found at www.n3pd.com