

## Summary of enhancements to be introduced in September 2020 (Suppliers)

eTendersNI has been the single procurement portal for NI since 2015. There are over 19,000 suppliers registered to use the portal; more than 15,000 Calls for Tender (CfTs) have been processed through the system; and over 54,000 tender submissions have been submitted by suppliers.

CPD continues to review feedback from suppliers and representative industry bodies on the functionality of eTendersNI to identify developments to enhance user experience.

CPD has worked with our supplier, European Dynamics to develop a new user interface to improve the process for preparing and submitting tenders. This will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

To implement the new interface, there will be a period of system downtime. This will commence at 17:00 on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August and the service will resume at 08:00 on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### What will change?

#### Preparation of tenders

Currently suppliers download a Tender Preparation Tool (TPT) to their device to prepare tenders.

From September suppliers can prepare and submit tenders in eTendersNI without using the TPT. The system will provide suppliers with a secure tender preparation space. The secure space will only be accessible and visible to the users in a Supplier's organisation that have been associated with a CfT. Multiple users can be involved in preparing a tender response, however only one user at a time can edit a response. The secure space:

- will be limited to 100MB per tender response;
- includes a document library to assist users to upload and attach documents to a tender response. The document library will be deleted following the Award of the contract;
- will continue to encrypt tenders before submission which can only be unlocked and made visible to the buyers **after** the tender deadline; and
- does not use java and will function on iPads, tablets and mobile phones.

**PLEASE NOTE** The secure tender preparation space will become available from 1 September but some CfTs for a short period will still require suppliers to use the current java applet TPT.

## **Internet Explorer 11 (IE11) Support**

Currently IE11 can be used to interact with eTendersNI. As the overall usage of IE11 is declining, and is used by less than 5% of browser users worldwide, it will no longer be supported by eTendersNI. **Suppliers will not be able to prepare and submit a response using IE11.**

## **Password Rules**

To enhance security new password rules will be introduced. All users will be required to change their password on their first log in after 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Further information and instructions on using the new tender preparation space will be provided to suppliers in advance of go-live. The online manuals and video walkthrough guides will also be updated.