

Brief note on 'Government eProcurement System of NIC' (GePNIC)

National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India has developed its own eProcurement software solution, GePNIC to cater to the procurement/ tendering requirements of the Government departments and organizations. The solution is generic in nature and can easily be adopted for all kinds of procurement activities such as Goods, Services & Works, by Government offices. It aims at transparency and non discrimination amongst bidders, by allowing free access to tender documents, clarifications, secure on line bid submission and access to bid opening event to all, from any place on 24X7 basis, using the system through Internet, in a faster, and secure environment adopting industry standard open technologies. The system has been designed taking into account the tender rules followed in various states and also the CVC's guidelines on tendering.

The main functionalities covered are: Registration of Govt officials & Bidders in different roles, Tender Creation (Multiple Packets) and Publishing, Publishing of Corrigendum and decisions of Pre-bid meeting, Online Bid submission/ resubmission/withdrawal as per the needs (which are configurable) and online Tender Opening and Decryption of Bids. eAuction Module is in the pilot phase. Pre & Post tendering activities are not covered at present under GePNIC.

Some of the salient features built into the system are Facility for online/offline Payment of Tender Fee and EMD, exemption of EMD, encryption of bids submitted by the bidder, facility of single/ two/ multi cover bid system, offline Technical Evaluation, generation of comparative charts for Financial Bids, uploading of committee recommendations / evaluation summaries at each stage of the tender process, publication of Award of Contract information, communication of 'Event Alerts' by Mail to various stake holders, status of each tender at various stages and detailed MIS report Module etc . Each document uploaded into the system is digitally signed for authentication purposes which introduces accountability on the part of the stakeholders namely officials/bidders.

The solution can be configured for use by an organization at it's apex level, and at multiple subordinate levels, at which tenders could independently be floated. Bidder categories / classes are also configurable.

The solution has strong in-built security features including two-factor Authentication with Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) as per IT Act, Usage of SSL, Role-based User Access and Bid-encryption at Client end, using PKI technologies. The solution has been security audited by various independent agencies.

GePNIC has bagged E-World award in Aug 2011 for Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd (MCL), CII Award for Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd (MCL) e-tenders in March'11, E-India 2010 Award, Skoch-Challenger Award 2010(The World is Open), G2B Initiative of the year 2009 - eIndia Award, India-Tech Excellence Award - 2009 for the Orissa Implementation and also reviewed by World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

NIC has standing arrangements through NICSI to facilitate the implementation/ rollout of the GePNIC solution, including domain specific 3rd party agencies, to provide manpower support for handholding, training and Helpdesk facilities as per the needs of user departments, on chargeable basis. The rollout model for GePNIC solution does not envisage any fee/ charge from suppliers/ bidders for their portal registration or bid submissions.

NIC's eProcurement solution has been implemented successfully in many State Governments such as Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Chandigarh UT, NCT Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Kerala. Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D), NICSI, Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited (MCL) Orissa, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., and Viskhapatnam Port Trust are also using this solution. It is also being implemented for procurements under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) of Rural Development Ministry in 21 states, which includes some of the North Eastern states. More than 1,50,000 tenders, worth over Rs 1,85,000 Crores have been processed successfully till date.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce has mandated early and fast adoption of a standardized e-Procurement System in state government departments through the Mission Mode Project (MMP) on e-Procurement. Under this MMP, NIC's eProcurement solution GePNIC is to be implemented in 23 states by March 2013.

Department of Expenditure has taken action for setting up a Central Public Procurement Portal (CPP Portal). National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been given the responsibility for setting up this portal. The primary objective of the portal is to provide a single point access to the information on procurements made across various Ministries and the line Departments. The CPP Portal is accessible at the URL <http://eprocure.gov.in> and it has e-publishing and e-procurement modules. It will be mandatory for all Ministries / Departments of the Central Government, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous and Statutory Bodies to publish all their tender enquiries on the CPP Portal.