



BSI Standards Publication

Electronic public procurement – Business interoperability interfaces (BII), e-Catalogue

Part 101: Overview

National foreword

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 17015-101:2018) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 440 “Electronic public procurement”, the secretariat of which is held by Danish Standards.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document is part of a series of multi-part documents prepared, or under preparation, by CEN/TC 440:

- 17011-series: **e-Procurement Architecture**, providing a set of specifications outlining different aspects of the e-Procurement architecture for Business Interoperability Specifications.
- 17012-series: **e-Procurement Business Term Vocabulary**, providing a consistent set of business terms used in the e-Procurement processes aligned with the work in CEN/TC 434 as well as actions currently underway under the ISA work program.
- 17013-series: **e-Notification Business Interoperability Specifications**, providing a set of specifications outlining business choreography, transaction, syntax binding specifications and guidelines required to support the e-Notification processes.
- 17014-series: **e-Tendering Business Interoperability Specifications**, providing a set of specifications outlining business choreography, transaction, syntax binding specifications and guidelines required to support the e-Tendering processes.
- 17015-series: **e-Catalogue Business Interoperability Specifications**, providing a set of specifications outlining business choreography, transaction, syntax binding specifications and guidelines required to support the e-Catalogue processes.
- 17016-series: **e-Ordering Business Interoperability Specifications**, providing a set of specifications outlining business choreography, transaction, syntax binding specifications and guidelines required to support the e-Ordering processes.
- 17017-series: **e-Fulfilment Business Interoperability Specifications**, providing a set of specifications outlining business choreography, transaction, syntax binding specifications and guidelines required to support the e-Delivery processes.

Introduction

The objective of the work in CEN/TC 440, Electronic public procurement, is to provide standards, in the form of Business Interoperability Interface specifications, as a tool to ensure interoperability and thus facilitate efficient and effective electronic information exchange in the (public) e-Procurement processes between the buyer and the seller.

This is to facilitate end-to-end e-Procurement¹ including both pre-award and post-award processes, see Figure 1.

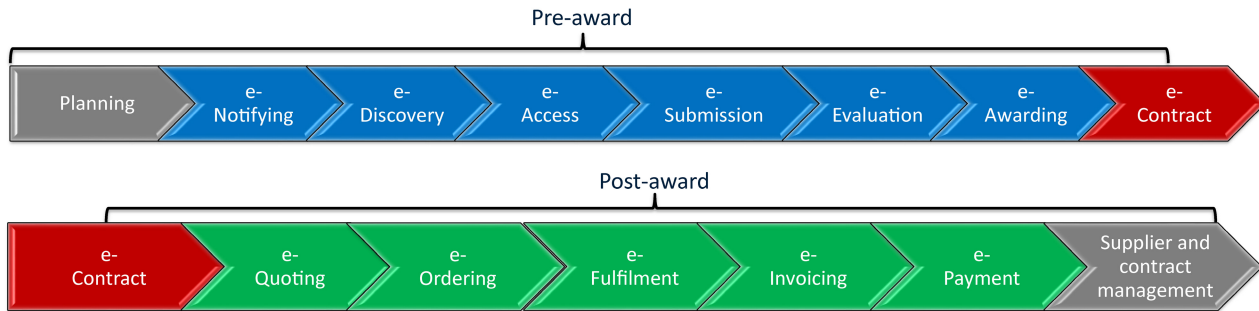


Figure 1 — The pre-and post-award processes of public e-Procurement

e-Procurement refers to the use of electronic communications and transaction processing by public sector organisations and economic operators when buying/providing supplies and services or tendering works, see Table 1 and Table 2.

¹ The concept of end-to-end procurement is further elaborated in COM(2013) 453 final on end-to-end e-Procurement to modernise public administration [6]

Table 1 — Business areas in the pre-award phase of public e-Procurement

Business Areas		Example information exchange ²
	Planning	Planning of milestones and electronic tracking of the achievements.
Pre-award	e-Notifying	Information exchange, publication and dissemination of notices related to procurement opportunities such as Prior Information Notices, Contract Notices and Contract Award Notices.
	e-Discovery	Search for interesting business opportunities on a publication portal.
	e-Access	Electronic access to tender documents and specifications, including electronic access to supporting documents for suppliers in the preparation of a Tender response, e.g. clarifications, questions and answers. This includes expressing interest in a business opportunity to be listed in the procurement procedure.
	e-Submission	Secure submission of tenders and/or catalogues in electronic format to the contracting body (contracting authority/ contracting entity), which can receive and process it in compliance with applicable legal requirements.
	e-Evaluation	Evaluation of the electronic tenders and/or catalogues received by the contracting body following the closing deadline of a tender competition, including electronic exchange to enable the clarification of tender content by evaluations.
	e-Awarding	Information exchange regarding award of the contract, including electronic exchange to support tenderers requesting additional information about the result of the procedure.
	e-Contract	Signing, enactment of a contract / agreement and possibly its related catalogue through electronic means between the contracting bodies and the winning tenderer(s), as well as the signing of contract amendments and possibly their related catalogue.

² It should be noted that the business transactions listed are examples only and does not constitute the full list of relevant business transactions.

Table 2 — Business areas in the post-award phase of public e-Procurement

Business Areas		Example information exchange	
Post-award	e-Quoting	Activities preparatory to issuing an order. including the exchange of electronic messages with winning tenderers who have signed a framework agreement with the contracting body, a request for quotation and the response to the quotation (e.g. framework agreements with reopening competition), etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for Quotation • Quotation • Punch-out
	e-Ordering	Issuing of an electronic order by the contracting body and its acceptance by the supplier or conversely issuing of an electronic order agreement by the supplier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order • Order Confirmation
	e-Fulfilment	Electronic exchange of information that enable monitoring the execution of the order or the contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despatch Advice • Receiving Advice
	e-Invoicing	Issuing, sending, receiving and processing invoices and billing data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invoice • Credit Note
	e-Payment	Financial payment involving currency transfer between a contracting body and a supplier.	
	Supplier and contract management	Management of supplier relationships and contracts, including archiving.	

The aim of CEN/TC 440 is to provide a focused and coordinated approach to development of appropriate European Standards that:

- Build upon and complement existing initiatives, such as CEN WS/BII3 and CEN/TC 434, and be part of a wider e-Business standardization portfolio;
- Facilitate end-to-end e-Procurement and thus support European policy objectives expressed in e.g. “Digital Agenda for Europe” [3] and “A strategy for e-procurement (COM(2012) 179 final)” [4], “End-to-end e-procurement to modernise public administration (COM(2013) 453 final)” [5], the “public procurement directive” [1];
- Recognize the rather ambitious timeline envisaged for implementation of the new procurement directives, stressing the importance of available standards as a basis for compliant software solutions to be available in the market;
- Allow for user engagement and participation as well as effective production of the standards required by being focused on public procurement needs (but take generic applicability for ‘Business-to-Business’ into account as and when relevant);
- Facilitate improved efficiency and cost reduction in both public and private sector entities;
- Focus on cross-border and cross-platform interoperability to allow economic operators to select the platform of their choice and still can participate in procurement opportunities across the full European market.

The deliverables from CEN/TC 440 collectively provide a framework for interoperability in pan-European electronic transactions for e-Procurement expressed as a set of technical specifications that is expected to:

- allow for efficient and effective implementation of electronic exchange of documents in public e-Procurement as well as in transactions between enterprises;
- support implementation of end-to-end e-Procurement including both pre-award and post-award processes for public procurement;
- facilitate interoperability between independent solutions;
- provide an added value to stakeholders, such as solution and service providers, as well as contracting bodies and economic operators involved in the e-Procurement process.

The work in CEN/TC 440 focuses on interoperability aspects of the exchange of information between business partners. Back-office information processing, e.g. the internal processing and business evaluation of the actual information content, is out of scope. To ensure interoperability the information exchange will be described in the form of:

- Choreography specifications, describing the flow of the business process and the sequence of information exchange;
- Business transaction information models, describing the information content of each information exchange;
- Syntax binding specifications, describing how the information content of a business transaction information model is represented in a specific syntax;
- Guidelines, providing additional guidance on specific topics.

It should be noted that CEN/TC 440 deliverables do not provide the full legal framework enabling business partners to fulfil their legal obligations. It is the responsibility of the business partners themselves to ensure that the business documents exchanged respect any rules defined by relevant legislation, including requirements related to personal data protection, as well as rules stated as part of a trading relationship between them.

1 Scope

This document provides an overview of the set Business Interoperability Interfaces (BII) specifications for e-Procurement covering the business areas of *e-Submission* and *e-Contract related to the exchange of catalogues*.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

4 Abbreviations

In this document, the following abbreviations apply according to Table 3.

Table 3 — Used abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
SAT	Solution architecture template
EIRA	European Interoperability Reference Architecture
IOP	Interoperability
ABB	Architectural Building Block
SBB	Solution Building Block

5 WG 5 e-Catalogue deliverables – 17015 series

The following deliverables (guidelines, choreographies, transactions and syntax bindings) are planned by *WG 5 e-Catalogue*: