



NEWS RELEASE

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A SCOTTISH FIRST FOR PROCUREMENT PROFESSIONALS

Procurement is at the heart of service delivery in the Scottish public sector. Now, for the first time, Scottish procurement professionals will gather to discuss how excellence in this critical area can be driven forward.

On 8 March 2007, in support of the efforts being made to improve procurement in the public sector, the very first Society of Procurement Officers in Local Government (SOPO) Scottish Conference, entitled 'Procurement: A Key Driver in Scottish Public Services', will take place at the [Edinburgh International Conference Centre](#).

Speakers at the one-day event include Nicholas Bowd, Director of the Scottish Procurement Directorate at the Scottish Executive, Dorothy Cowie, Director of the Authorities Buying Consortium (abc) and John McClelland CBE, Chair of NQ Consulting and author of the far-reaching review of public sector procurement in Scotland, the McClelland Report. The event is being organised by Glasgow-based public procurement specialist BiP Solutions.

David Pointon, SOPO Chairman, said the inaugural event will present Scottish procurement professionals with an opportunity to find fresh solutions to their many challenges: "We need to think to the future to ensure that the many improvements already being rolled out throughout Scotland are sustained.

"This conference will prepare us for the future by ensuring that sustainability and the ongoing improvement of procurement processes is realised. It is vital that we work together to sustain the improvements made thus far."

With media sponsorship from award-winning *Government Opportunities (GO)* magazine, SOPO Scotland will look at what still needs to be achieved to improve service delivery, as well as reviewing the positive changes which have already come about. Delegates attending the conference will also have an opportunity to hear about the early work of the new Centre of Excellence and learn how to make use of this new resource.

Mr Pointon said he is confident that the event will prove an inspiration to Scottish procurement professionals: "SOPO Scotland will be an exciting opportunity for those working in procurement to gain first-hand knowledge of best practice, and will provide a rallying call to all those striving to improve service delivery to come together in excellence."

ENDS

Notes for editors:

About SOPO:

- Representing over 2500 members, SOPO provides area networks and forums and produces guidance on best practice
- Its aim is to advise local authorities throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on all purchasing and supplies matters of national or general interest, and to represent its members on other bodies to promote the Society and its aims
- Through membership of SOPO, procurement officers join together to share best practice and influence the national agenda on how "Best Value" is to be achieved

About GO magazine:

- Contains news and features on public sector procurement, strategy, directives and developments - essential information for any company working with or within the public sector
- Reaches a target audience of more than 30,000 readers
- Includes articles by and interviews with key industry personnel, including Government Ministers, MPs and procurement officers throughout the public sector
- Published by BiP Solutions Ltd, one of Europe's leading providers of public sector contracts information

About BiP Solutions:

- Established 23 years, 150 staff based in Glasgow
- One of Europe's leading providers of public sector contracts information
- Publisher of *Government Opportunities* magazine
- Organiser of N3PD
- Service provider of the Supply2.gov.uk lower-value contracts portal
- Service provider of the MoD's *Defence Contracts Bulletin*
- Also provides procurement consultancy, training and events

Useful links

SOPO	www.sopo.org
GO Magazine	www.govopps.co.uk
BiP Solutions	www.bipsolutions.com

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