



NEWS RELEASE

DATE: 9 June 2008

Excellence in Public Procurement

Minister for the Third Sector Phil Hope has reiterated the vital importance of collaborative working between government and the third sector.

Speaking at National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD) 2008 and the *Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards* in London on 5 June, Mr Hope said: "Commissioning and procurement practices are an absolutely essential part of working well with the third sector. Good commissioning is essential for the third sector, and all the finalists in the *GO Improved Delivery Through Greater Third Sector Involvement* category clearly demonstrate that they have turned commissioning principles into reality in their procurement with the third sector."

Mr Hope was addressing hundreds of delegates who had met to honour the success and achievements of those working in the public procurement sector. Also speaking at the event was John Cridland, Deputy Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Cridland thanked local government procurement professionals for their work, stating that "business enormously values the work you do. There would be no public services at all if it wasn't for you, and we recognise the role you have – and the many successes you have had – in delivering high-quality, value-for-money services to the public."

Mr Cridland went on to say that, while there have been some successes through reviews such as Gershon and the Efficiency review, he stated that it was vital that savings do not come at the expense of quality. He added "We do not want to see suppliers squeezed, which simply has the effect of driving firms out of the market, reducing competition and choice. Nor do we want to see a return to the bad old days of compulsory competitive tendering, when price, and not value, was all that mattered."

The annual *GO Excellence in Public Procurement Awards* were unveiled at N3PD. Outstanding achievements were recognised across eight categories reflecting public, private and third sector initiative and innovation, while the prestigious *GO Lifetime Achievement Award* was received by Nick Bowd, Director of the Scottish Procurement Directorate.

Organised by BiP Solutions Ltd, one of Europe's leading providers of procurement information services and the publisher of *GO* magazine, N3PD and the *GO Awards* bring together procurement professionals from across the UK. This was the fifth year that the event has been staged.

Grahame Steed, Managing Editor of *GO* magazine, said he was delighted by the response to the event: "In the rush to achieve increasingly difficult goals, it can be easy to overlook the good news stories. The *GO Awards* have demonstrated that there are plenty of these, and also that public procurement – as a profession and a public service – has much to be proud of. Congratulations go to all the *GO Award* winners and those who were highly commended - the future of public procurement is in safe hands."

ENDS

Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2008

Winners and Highly Commended Finalists

Sustainability Award – sponsored by [OGCbuying.solutions](#)

Winner – Sustainable Innovation Group, Exeter City Council

Highly Commended – RAFAEL Project Team, Central Services Agency

Improved Delivery Through Greater Third Sector Involvement Award – sponsored by the [National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning](#)

Winner – Dorset Partnership for Older People Project, Dorset County Council

Highly Commended – Rough Sleeping Team, City of Westminster

Collaborative Procurement Award – sponsored by [Pearl Linguistics](#)

Winner – London Development Agency – CompeteFor

Highly Commended – North West Collaborative Procurement Hub

Highly Commended – Healthcare Purchasing Consortium

Best Service Award – sponsored by [Central Telecom](#)

Winner – Pearl Linguistics Ltd/INTRAN Partnership

Highly Commended – FM Conway Ltd/London Borough of Lambeth

Best Small Supplier Innovation Award – sponsored by [Supply2.gov.uk](#)

Winner – Print Image Network Ltd/Hertsmere Borough Council

Highly Commended – XOR Ltd/Department for Work and Pensions

Young Procurement Professional Award

Winner – Amy Richards, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Highly Commended – Abi Bouch, Cumbria County Council

Individual Excellence Award

Winner – Martin Blake, London Probation

Team Excellence Award – sponsored by [BSI Product Services](#)

Winner – Print and Associated Services Solution Project Team, Department for Work and Pensions

Highly Commended – PPSA Packs Team, Peninsula Purchasing and Supply Alliance

Highly Commended – Purchased Healthcare Category Team, re:source Procurement Hub

The Lifetime Achievement Award for 2008

Nick Bowd, Director of the Scottish Procurement Directorate

Notes for Editors:

About GO magazine

- Published monthly by BiP Solutions Ltd
- The UK's leading publication focused on all aspects of public procurement
- Contains news and features on procurement, strategy, Directives and developments - essential information for any company working with or within the public sector
- Includes articles by and interviews with key industry personnel, including Government Ministers, MPs and procurement officers throughout the public sector
- Reaches a target audience of more than 32,000 readers (ABC 8223, July 2005 -January 2006)
- Business Services Association Media Awards Best Specialist Journal winner in 2006

About BiP Solutions

- Established 24 years, 180 staff based in Glasgow
- One of Europe's leading providers of public sector contracts information
- AXA Small to Medium-Sized Enterprise Winner 2007
- Publisher of GO magazine
- 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

- National Public Procurement Practitioners Day www.n3pd.com
- GO Awards www.goawards.co.uk
- GO magazine www.govopps.co.uk
- BiP Solutions Ltd www.bipcorporate.com

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