



**eProcurement
for Government Supply Chains**
Leveraging efficiencies of commercial supply
chains to optimize procurement processes

**eProcurement
Solutions**



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GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN MANY COUNTRIES ARE RECONSIDERING THEIR PROCUREMENT PROCESSES IN LIGHT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE.

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT TEAMS ARE ALSO STUDYING THE METHODS AND MEANS USED BY COMMERCIAL SUPPLY CHAINS, TO SEE IF THE EFFICIENCIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN PRODUCTIVITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY THAT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THERE COULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO THEIR WORK.



eProcurement, managing the procurement process with electronic systems and processes, and not with paper, stands out as a very interesting solution with many benefits.

Many governments are examining eProcurement solutions very seriously; others have already successfully implemented a variety of eProcurement tools as part of their day-to-day operations, with positive results.

Although government procurement operations and requirements can vary greatly among agencies across the world, two core requirements have emerged as universal for most: the best eProcurement solutions for

governments are **consistent and compatible with what is used in commercial supply chains** and **based on global standards**.

Our eProcurement solutions are based on global standards and are perfectly consistent and compatible with what is used in commercial supply chains today.

The GS1 System of Standards is, in fact, the most widely implemented supply chain standards system in the world: over one million companies from over twenty industry sectors worldwide are members of the GS1 Community.

Moreover, our eProcurement solutions are based on and fully compliant

with UN/EDIFACT and UN/CEFACT, the global standards demanded by governments. We've been an active member of UN/CEFACT for nearly three decades and have contributed actively to the development of their EDI and XML standards.

GS1 brings its 30 years of experience in procurement standards and supply chain strategies to support government agencies and their suppliers as they pursue eProcurement strategies and seek to improve the efficiency and productivity of their supply chain operations.



1 GS1 EANCOM for eProcurement Solutions Based on EDI

SOME COUNTRIES CHOOSE TO DEPLOY ePROCUREMENT SOLUTIONS BASED ON EDI, OR ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE.

Governments demand EDI solutions built around the UN/EDIFACT standard for EDI, which is developed, maintained and overseen by UN/CEFACT. There are currently over 200 standardised business messages available in UN/EDIFACT, and the UN/EDIFACT Directories are revised and updated twice a year. UN/EDIFACT has been widely implemented across supply

chains around the globe and operates well for public agencies and private companies of all sectors.

GS1 has a complete suite of EDI standards known as GS1 EANCOM, ideally suited for EDI-based government eProcurement solutions. GS1 EANCOM EDI standards are fully based on UN/EDIFACT. Indeed, GS1 actively par-

ticipated in the development of the UN/EDIFACT standards, having been a member of UN/CEFACT for nearly three decades.

GS1 EANCOM is an excellent response to government agencies looking for an EDI eProcurement solution.

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GS1 XML for eProcurement Solutions Based on XML

MANY OF TODAY'S ePROCUREMENT SOLUTIONS INVOLVE XML TECHNOLOGIES, THE NEWEST AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, LEAST EXPENSIVE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPLEMENT.

As part of its commitment to facilitating processes, procedures and transactions, UN/CEFACT has been developing XML messaging standards. Ultimately, they will be the global standards to which government agencies seek compliance for their XML eProcurement solutions; today, however, the development of UN/XML standards is still in its early stages. UN/CEFACT has approved

and officially ratified a set of "Core Components," and in 2007 significant work is expected on official UN/XML messages such as Invoice, Despatch and Purchase Order, as well as the development of Naming and Design Rules and updates to the Core Components.

GS1 has been actively participating in the on-going development of

UN/XML standards. GS1 XML is based on the same modelling, design and technical principles as UN/CEFACT, and is fully compliant with the UN/CEFACT Core Components.

GS1 XML is an ideal choice for government agencies that wish to deploy an XML-based eProcurement solution based on approved and ratified international standards.



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GS1 and Web Forms

SOME GOVERNMENTS PUBLISH FORMS ON THEIR WEB SITE FOR SUPPLIERS TO DOWNLOAD AND USE. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO TRUE GLOBAL STANDARDS SPECIFICALLY FOR SUCH "WEB FORMS," MANY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CREATE THEIR WEB FORM SOLUTIONS BASED ON UN/EDIFACT STANDARDS, IN ORDER TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH A GLOBAL STANDARD.

In 2006, UN/CEFACT launched an UN/eDocs initiative, aimed at developing global standards specifically for Web Forms used in commercial trade. Of course, GS1 actively supports and participates in this effort.

Many of the 104 GS1 Member Organisations around the world have supported their communities in their

efforts to create Web Forms with attributes based on UN/EDIFACT standards, mapped to UN/EDIFACT messages wherever possible.

GS1, both globally and locally, will continue to support global standards for Web Forms as they are developed by UN/CEFACT.



Why choose GS1 for your eProcurement solutions?

GS1 eProcurement Solutions are based on **global standards**

The benefits of electronic procurement processes over paper-based methods are significant and indeed often dramatic, but the evaluation of any eProcurement system must consider its ability to provide a framework that supports an agency's ability to trade electronically **both now and in the future**, and to support its suppliers' efforts to do the same.

Rushing to implement solutions that are not based on global standards is a threat to the medium- and long-term viability of the financial and technical investments required of agencies and their suppliers to implement them.

For example, other XML-based business messages exist on the market, but they are not based on global standards. Furthermore, some of these

solutions are proposed by 'for-profit' companies whose strategy is to lock their customers into their proprietary technology.

Only eProcurement solutions based on the UN/EDIFACT, UN/XML and UN/eDocs international standards, like GS1's Solutions, will truly provide the long-term ability to improve efficiency and reduce costs.



GS1 eProcurement Solutions are consistent and **compatible** with what is used in **commercial supply chains**.

With our thirty years of experience supporting supply and demand chains around the world, no one is better placed than GS1 to bring government agencies the experience and wisdom of procurement methods and systems from the commercial sector.

Additionally, GS1 standards are the best choice for working with suppliers who do both government and commercial business: the GS1 community is a vital part of government procurement supply chains, and government procurement agencies are important

trading partners to the GS1 community. Using GS1 standards reduces the burdens governments place on their suppliers.

Why GS1?

There are a variety of approaches and solutions for eProcurement available today, and GS1 can support agencies in evaluating their options and devising strategies during this transitional phase.

GS1 is the ideal partner for government procurement supply chain teams navigating the evolving eProcurement environment.



GS1 designs and manages a global system of supply chain standards.

We bring together companies representing all parts of the supply chain - manufacturers, distributors, retailers, transporters, customs organisations, software developers, local and international regulatory authorities, and more. These companies, who may in fact have conflicting business interests, work together under our leadership to agree upon standards that make the supply chain faster, more effective, less complex and less costly.

Without a neutral, not-for-profit and global organisation like GS1, such very different companies would probably not be able to agree on standards. We've been making it happen for 30 years, and consumers and businesses have benefitted.