

Government of Ontario Electronic Tendering (eTendering) System Update Frequently Asked Questions for Vendors

About the new eTendering service system provided by BravoSolution

1. Why has the government of Ontario chosen a new electronic tendering system?

The agreement with our past service provider, MERX Networks Inc. (MERX), ended in May 2014 and Supply Chain Ontario (SCO), Ontario Shared Services held an open competitive procurement for eTendering services.

Before issuing the Request for Proposal, SCO consulted vendors and stakeholders to determine the kinds of services they needed and preferred, and to ensure the procurement for eTendering services was fair, open and transparent.

BravoSolution was the successful proponent in the open and competitive process held by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services.

Ontario's trade obligations require the province to designate an eTendering system to post notices about open competitive procurements.

2. Who is the new eTendering service provider?

BravoSolution was selected as the new eTendering service provider as they were the successful proponent in an open competitive procurement process conducted by SCO.

3. How will this affect the way vendors access procurement opportunities?

Vendors should find it easy to identify procurement opportunities that interest them. Ontario has adopted the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) system, a widely-used commodity and service coding system. This will make finding procurement opportunities straightforward.

For assistance with selecting the applicable UNSPSC code(s), please contact BravoSolution Customer Support at eTenderhelp_CA@bravosolution.com or call 1(866) 722 7390.

Vendors now also have:

- A website, Ontario Tenders Portal, to search and access procurement opportunities.
- The ability to review and download procurement documents without an upfront subscription fee.
- Online bid submissions for procurements.

4. Will Government of Ontario procurement opportunities still be available on MERX?

Effective April 1, 2014, BravoSolution became the designated eTendering system for Ontario government ministries. New procurement opportunities have not been posted on MERX since March 31, 2014.

5. How is BravoSolution different from MERX?

The eTendering system provides the same functionality previously available such as supplier registration, procurement opportunity postings and award notices. The system also provides added features and flexibility to enable the Ontario government to continue to modernize procurement.

6. What are the benefits of using BravoSolution?

BravoSolution allows vendors to access Ontario government procurement opportunities with no upfront subscription or download fees.

BravoSolution makes it easy for vendors to find procurement opportunities that interest them. It adopts the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) system, a widely-used commodity and service coding system.

Vendors will be able to use new features and services, including online bid submission, as they are introduced.

7. What is the cost to vendors?

There are no costs to register or to download procurement documents of interest. Registration is required to download procurement opportunities.

8. Will the cost of registering or downloading documents change?

BravoSolution provides vendors with the ability to access Ontario government procurement opportunities with no download fees.

Transition from MERX to BravoSolution

9. What important transition dates do I need to be aware of?

To access new procurement opportunities:

- Registration and online orientation on BravoSolution began in March, 2014.
- BravoSolution was implemented on April 1, 2014.

10. Will MERX accounts and information be transferred to BravoSolution?

No. Vendors will need to register on BravoSolution to access Ontario government procurement opportunities.

11. Is training available to learn how to use BravoSolution?

Registration instructions are available to vendors through Ontario.ca/supplychain. Self-help tools are available on the eTendering portal - Ontario.ca/tenders.

Accessing Ontario government procurement opportunities

12. Who can access information on BravoSolution?

Any suppliers interested in doing business with the Ontario government must register on the BravoSolution system to be notified of procurement opportunities.

13. Is there a cost to view and download procurement opportunities?

There are no fees to download procurement opportunities from BravoSolution. However, vendors must register to download documents. There is no cost to register.

14. Do suppliers need to register to download procurement opportunities?

Yes. Suppliers interested in downloading procurement opportunities must register on BravoSolution.

15. Will all government of Ontario procurement opportunities be posted on BravoSolution?

All procurement opportunities for Ontario government ministries with procurement values at or above \$25,000 for goods and at or above \$100,000 for services and construction have been posted on BravoSolution effective April 1, 2014.

Certain government agencies may use other posting services. Vendors can continue to monitor these systems for procurement opportunities as well.

Road construction vendors currently using the Ministry of Transportation RAQS system should continue to follow current processes.

Procurement opportunity notifications and amendments

16. How will vendors get up-to-date information about procurement opportunity notices?

BravoSolution will send out an alert to vendors who have registered on the system and who have selected applicable UNSPSC codes. When vendors register, they will need to set up their own search criteria so BravoSolution can send relevant procurement opportunity notices.

17. How will vendors get up-to-date information about procurement amendments?

While a procurement opportunity is open, BravoSolution will send alerts to registrants who have expressed interest to the procurement indicating that amendments have been published. Vendors can help ensure they receive these alerts by providing complete and accurate information when they register.

Samples and drawings

18. Can vendors get paper, fax, CD or DVD copies of tenders?

No. Tenders will be available electronically only. Please contact the Ministry buyer listed on the Request for Bid if you require alternative arrangements.

19. Can vendors get prints of construction drawings from BravoSolution?

No. Tenders and any associated attachments will only be available electronically. Drawings will be available for download as an attachment to applicable tenders on BravoSolution. Please contact the Ministry buyer listed on the Request for Bid if you require alternative arrangements.

20. How will BravoSolution support the distribution of samples and bonds?

Instructions will be provided in procurement documents when samples or bonds are a requirement of that procurement opportunity. Vendors are required to follow these instructions.

21. Where can vendors get more information about BravoSolution?

SCO continues to communicate directly with the vendor community providing updates on our website at www.ontario.ca/supplychain, and contact vendor associations and chambers of commerce to provide registration and other support for the BravoSolution eTendering services.