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NEWS RELEASE

BUYING ORGANISATIONS JOIN FORCES TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY DRIVE

Five professional buying organisations with a combined purchasing power of £2 billion are set to offer local authorities outstanding deals in key markets following an historic agreement to work together.

The Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation, Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation, Central Buying Consortium, West Mercia Supplies and the North East Purchasing Organisation have agreed to work together as the 'Pro5' and are preparing a business model to underpin their collaborative efforts.

Under these arrangements, the Pro5 will identify and promote the best deals for local authorities, including those offered by other professional buying organisations.

As a first step, the Pro5 have identified a number of key markets where quick win cashable savings can be made. They will combine their procurement expertise and strong market position to help local authorities migrate spend onto new contracts in the markets of:

- Telephony
- Postal services
- Self-drive vehicle hire
- Micro-technologies to support environmental sustainability
- Energy

More...

Buying organisations join forces continued.

Not only will these new contracts be open to all local authorities, but all Pro5 contracts will be opened out nationally. Collaborative approaches to other markets will be developed in the future.

A spokesperson for the Pro5 said, "This is an important development in public sector procurement. The Pro5 recognise that local authorities are facing increasingly demanding efficiency and improvement agendas and by working together and with other buying organisations, they can provide local authorities with a far more effective service than if they were working separately."

Steve Holland, Director of the Regional Centres of Excellence National Procurement Programme, added, "I am delighted that these five, well respected organisations have taken this bold step as it's exactly the kind of innovative partnership that local government has been looking forward to. Local authorities can now look towards better deals and greater support in their efforts to drive down costs and meet the demands of the efficiency agenda."

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Notes to editors

Funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the nine Regional Centres of Excellence are the lead change agents for local government efficiency. Uniquely placed to bring councils together, they are run by local government, bring additional capacity and are results focussed. They are supporting councils to secure millions of pounds in efficiencies that are being re-invested in better front-line services.

Issued on behalf of the Pro5 and the Regional Centres of Excellence National Procurement Programme by Seth Brook.

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