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NEWS RELEASE



Public sector organisations in the South West, West Midlands and South East are set to realise almost £14m in cashable savings by 2010 as a result of e-auctions held in the South West.

Recent auctions supported by the South West Centre of Excellence, for agency staff, wheeled bins, stationery/paper, and protective gloves have involved 28 local authorities as well as 6 NHS organisations and one police authority.

- After undertaking a collaborative e-tender and e-auction process for agency staff Wiltshire County Council, Bath & North East Somerset Unitary Authority, and the four Wiltshire District Councils, could achieve savings of up to £6 million over three years.
- A wheeled bins and associated services e-auction led by East Devon District Council for 18 local authorities could result in savings of £2.4m over four years.
- An e-auction for protective gloves (latex, vinyl and synthetic) involving 2 South West local authorities, 6 NHS organisations and a police authority is likely to result in savings of more than £2m over four years.
- Gloucester City Council held an e-auction, for printer consumables, paper and other stationery, on behalf of nine South West authorities. Anticipated savings of £3.5m over three years could be achieved as a result of the three consolidated contracts agreed.

All of these auctions have established frameworks agreements which are available for other public sector organisations to take advantage of.

Julian Morley, Director of the South West Centre of Excellence, said, "E-auctions are playing an increasingly important role in helping local authorities achieve much needed Gershon efficiency savings. With local government facing a tougher financial future, the South West Centre of Excellence is committed to supporting more e-auctions to help local authorities cut costs on many commonly bought goods and services in order to release money for front-line services."

The South West Centre of Excellence working with e-auction experts e-Three has supported these auctions through its e-auction programme aimed at encouraging collaboration to achieve both cashable and non-cashable savings.

The South West Centre of Excellence has a programme of other auctions planned for 2007 including personal protective equipment, printed materials, sheds/fencing, vehicle fuel, furniture and road salt. For further information contact Gillian Brindle at the South West Centre of Excellence g.brindle@dorsetcc.gov.uk

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Notes to editors

1. Funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the nine Regional Centres of Excellence are the lead change agents for local government efficiency. They are supporting councils to secure millions of pounds in efficiencies that are being re-invested in better front-line services. Uniquely placed to bring councils together, they are run by local government, they bring additional capacity and are results focused. The South West Centre of Excellence is hosted by Dorset County Council.
2. An e-auction provides organisations with an opportunity to work collaboratively and obtain a true market value on the goods and services they buy. It also allows organisations to put their requirements online, including the amount and specification of the products needed - suppliers then compete on price/quality for business.

Issued by Hamid Kennedy

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