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Advantages of Public e-Procurement

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Advantages of Public e-Procurement



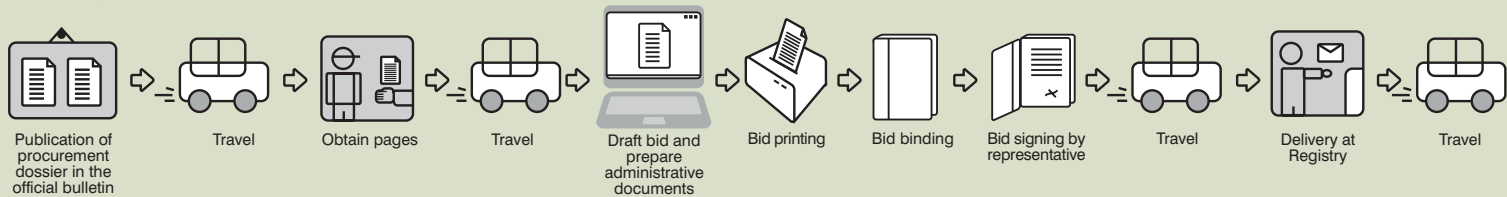
The Autonomous Basque Community Administration is the first in the State to implement Public e-Procurement, prior to European Union directive 18/2004/CE for administrative procurement, which recommends its introduction prior to the end of 2007.

Basque companies have the opportunity to try out and become familiar with a means of procurement that the Public Administration will be using shortly.

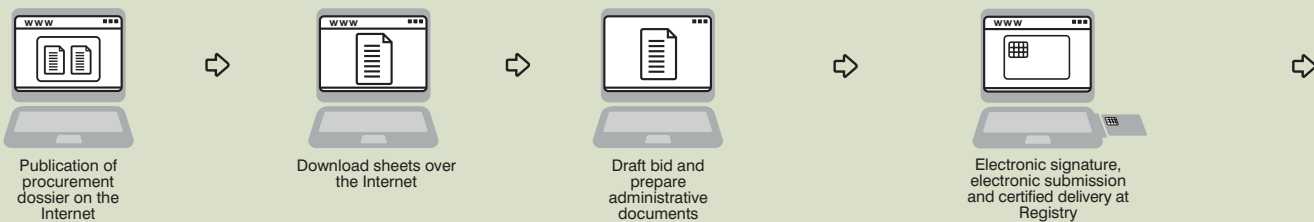
Comparison graphic illustrating the difference between classic and electronic procedures

From a technology perspective the Electronic Tendering Application enables many tendering activities to be processed, and provides important benefits, as can be seen in the attached graphic.

Classic procedure



Electronic procedure



Advantages of electronic procedure

- Constant availability for bidding. The presentation of submissions, written documents and communications can be performed via telematic registries 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including public holidays.
- More time to prepare and fine-tune bids. Bids can be processed at any time within the tender deadline.
- Reduced processing times.
- Reduction in workload and potential errors linked to the preparation of administrative documentation.
- No need to travel to present bids and corrections or to attend opening ceremonies, eliminating the surprises involved with travel delays or unforeseen circumstances that can have an impact on the traditional tendering process.
- Reduced mail and courier costs.
- Greater knowledge of the competition, by virtue of being able to view opening ceremonies over the Internet.
- Exemption from having to present certification of inclusion in the Official Register of Contractors for the Autonomous

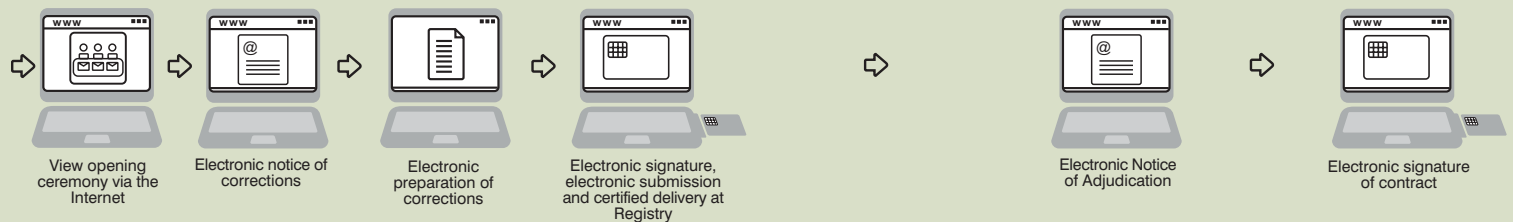
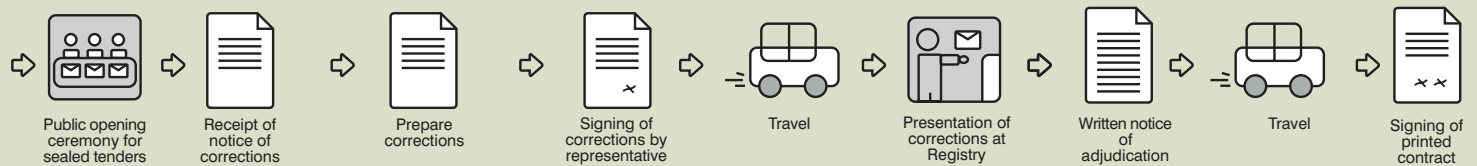
Electronic procurement provides benefits for Basque Administration, officials, companies and society in general.

A simple, accessible, secure model



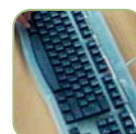
Objectives

- Increase efficiency and reduce management costs.
- Develop better levels of support for companies and Administration services involved in public procurement and purchasing.
- Provide a greater degree of criteria homogeneity for procurement processes, also providing supplementary levels of respect for norms and procedures.
- Promote competition, through open and effective communication, facilitating reasonable access for all companies to learn about, and benefit from, the business opportunities provided by the Basque Administration.
- Take advantage of the Administration's potential for promoting electronic purchasing and recognised electronic signatures, the two Basic components of the Basque Plan for an Information Society.



Community. The existence, validity and content of said certification is checked as a matter of course by the IT application.

- Possibility of correcting electronic bids, in accordance with the terms contemplated in the Public Administration Contracts Act (revised text approved by Royal Legislative Decree 2/2000, 16 June).



Direct benefits for companies

- Creation of a unique means of access, that is simple and easy to use, for all business development opportunities with the Autonomous Basque Community General Administration.
- Reduction of barriers to access for SMBs, who may at some point had issues approaching the Public Administration.
- Visibility and ability to digitally process the entire procurement cycle, having digital mechanisms for:
 - Accessing tender advertising.
 - Easily and comfortably obtaining competition documentation.
 - Submitting bids electronically.
 - Knowledge of adjudications.

Training and support An added benefit

Many of the digital mechanisms used in e-Procurement are new. This is why, during launch, the Basque Government has planned an important support effort for the more than 3,200 companies that, to date, are registered with the Official Register of Contractors. To this end, specific training content has been developed, and it will be provided via the following two channels:

Direct training

At Basque Government classrooms, or collaborating institutions, via specific training campaigns. (Dates and venues to be made know at the time).



Training over the Internet



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An "opportunity for experimentation and familiarization", at no cost to companies.

All elements necessary for Electronic Tendering, including those related to Electronic Signature certificates, will be provided free of charge to bidding companies.

Shortly the Public e-Procurement System will be offered to Regional and Local Councils for their voluntary adoption, and therefore the experience gained by companies will be very useful when offering services to the Administration as a whole.

The development of the Public e-Procurement Model constitutes a logical and natural step towards the digitalisation of the Administration's services. As a consequence, the introduction of the Model constitutes an "opportunity for experimentation and familiarization" for companies, with a mechanism that the entire Public Administration will adopt in future.

