

e-NEWSLETTER n°3 – February 2011

New Developments on PUBLIC PROCUREMENT & INNOVATION

European Commission -- DG ENTERPRISE & INDUSTRY

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1. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Important announcement of the European Council conclusions of 4 February 2011 www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119175.pdf :

20- the Commission is invited to: provide guidance on the application of the Directives on public procurement; more generally **public procurement should be better geared to creating greater demand for innovative goods and services;**

22- **The Commission is invited to present proposals by the end of 2011:** (...)

and for assessing how best to meet the needs of fast growing innovative companies through a market-based approach. In this connection the Commission is also invited **to explore the feasibility of a Small Business Innovation Research Scheme.**"

Publication of "Innovation Union" on 6 October 2010 Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative, (http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm) that includes initiatives **to support Public Procurement of Innovation notably through action n°17:**

"Pre-commercial procurements and public procurements of innovative products and services (including those defined by the Innovation Partnerships, see Section 5). This should create procurement markets across the EU starting from at least €10 billion a year for innovations that improve the efficiency and quality of public services, while addressing the major societal challenges. The aim should be to achieve innovative procurement markets equivalent to those in the US. The Commission will provide guidance and set up a (financial) support mechanism to help contracting authorities to implement these procurements in a non-discriminatory and open manner, to pool demand, to draw up common specifications, and to promote SME access.

In addition, the Commission will offer guidance on implementing joint procurements between contracting entities under the current public procurement directives and use the ongoing general evaluation of the current directives to examine the opportunity to introduce additional rules to make cross border joint procurements easier", refer to http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/innovation-union-communication_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

European Commission DG for the Internal Market and Services recently launched a **Green Paper on "The modernisation of EU public procurement policy towards a more efficient European Procurement Market"**, within the framework of the 2004 Directive assessment.

We invite all stakeholders to contribute particularly on innovation procurement, SMEs access to public procurement, pre-commercial procurement or joint public procurement... **Do not hesitate to send us your contributions to the following address:** bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu

Deadline on: 18.04.2011

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/consultations/index_en.htm

European Commission DG Employment published on January 2011 a guide on "**social considerations in public procurement**": <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=331&langId=en&furtherPubs=yes>

For more information: susan.bird@ec.europa.eu

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The **German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce DIHK** (umbrella organisation of 80 Chambers) published lately a Policy Paper on **"Innovative public procurement"**: www.dihk.de/ressourcen/downloads/public-procurement
For more information: Annette Karstedt-Meierrieks; Director Economic Administrative Law, Public Procurement, Data Protection: karstedt-meierrieks.annette@dihk.de

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The **French Ministry of Economy, Finances and Industry** published a **guidance note** on the Law of Modernization of the Economy, (2008: www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000019283050&dateTexte=) that invites major **French procurers to reserve part of their R&D procurement budgets** (less than 15% of their annual procurement budget) **to innovative SMEs** : www.industrie.gouv.fr/enjeux/innovation/guide-art26LME.pdf
For more information: Boris Pennaneac'h: boris.pennaneac'h@finances.gouv.fr

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The **French organisation "Réseau Commande Publique"** published 10 recommendations on how to improve SMEs access to public procurement. More info: www.oseo.fr/a_la_une/actualites/commande_publique_10_propositions

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The **Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs Agriculture and Innovation** recently made videos and leaflets to promoting their **SBIR Dutch programme**: called 'How the Dutch Government provides incentives for innovation in the private sector through public procurement' www.178aardigeontwerpers.nl/Said_and_Done
For more information: www.agentschapnl.nl/sbir

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The **Swedish Innovation agency, VINNOVA, is launching an initiative around pre-commercial procurement in April 2011**. The initiative aims to support and finance PCP projects in public sector organizations, as well as to raise the awareness around innovation procurement in general, in the public sector as well as in the SME community.
For more information: Ann-Mari Fineman, Head of Department IT-Applications and Services: ann-mari.fineman@vinnova.se

2. NEW CALLS

The DG ENTR **"feasibility study on future EU support to public procurement of innovative solutions"** http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4318&lang=fr has started on 15 November 2010 in order to design the mechanism to start pilots and to prepare for its inclusion as an instrument in the future Framework Programme of Research or Competitiveness and Innovation Programme CIP. Moreover, this support scheme will have to demonstrate its feasibility, its European added value, stakeholder demand, and how it could be scaled up (including management) in the future. To implement this action to support public procurement of innovation, a pilot call amounting to 15 M EURO (see below) will be launched within the CIP EIP 2011. The feasibility study will contribute to the definition and the design of this call for proposal.

In order to nourish this study, the consortium published a questionnaire to identify specific activities related to innovation procurement which could be supported under such a scheme. All European stakeholders involved in innovation procurement are kindly invited to answer the questionnaire: http://mbs.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3W5OWZrYZrBnCEk

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DG ENTR

New call for proposals on Public Procurement of Innovation, PPI

With regards to public procurement of innovation, **DG Enterprise** will launch before the summer a **15 M EURO** call for proposals on **"supporting public procurement of innovative solutions: networking and financing procurement"** (Refer to CIP work programme 2011: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/files/cip/docs/eip_2011_work_programme_en.pdf).

Aim of the call: to support the creation and development of trans-national networks of public procurers to form "buyers groups" to create critical mass in purchasing innovative goods and services in areas relating to major societal challenges and/or priority areas established in Innovation Union and Innovation Partnerships.

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DG INFSO

New call for proposals on Pre-Commercial Procurement, PCP

With regards to pre-commercial procurement, the following Commission support is planned in Call 8 of the **FP7 work programme 2011 for ICT**. In addition to the possibility to submit proposals for networking on PCP, consortia of public authorities from around Europe can now also apply for EC funding for undertaking a pre-commercial procurement jointly. Call 8 foresees:

- One targeted call for joint cross-border PCPs in the area of 'Photonic technologies'
 - § Indicative Budget: 3 M EURO
 - § More info on call incl. eligibility criteria: Objective 3.5(d) of the Work Programme
 - § Scope: Innovative photonics solutions improving quality and / or efficiency of public sector challenges

- One open call for networking/experience sharing on PCP and joint cross-border PCPs:
 - § Indicative Budget: 5 M EURO.
 - § More info on call incl. eligibility criteria: Objective 11.1 of the Work Programme
 - § Scope for CSAs: networking and coordination activities for public bodies in Europe to cooperate in the innovation of public services through a strategy that includes PCP
 - § Scope for CP-CSAs: joint cross-border PCP addressing ICT solutions for improving the quality and/or efficiency of public sector challenges in any area of public interest such as e-gov, transport, energy, environment, health, ageing, security etc.

Call 8 is expected to open in July 2011 and close in January 2012. More details about Call 8 is available via the PCP website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/pcp/calls_en.html

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Innovation Flanders

Flanders regions (BE) just launched their third call within the framework of their **'Public Procurement of Innovation scheme'**, inspired by Pre-commercial Procurement, dedicated to: **"towards a more sustainable greenhouse horticulture in Flanders"**, more information on the call at:

www.innovatiefaanbesteden.be/project/op_weg_naar_een_duurzamere_glaskasbouw_in_vlaanderen

Contact: Christophe Veys, Programme co-ordinator: cve@iwt.be; website: www.innovatiefaanbesteden.be

3. STUDIES/ REPORTS

During its 3rd INNO-Partnering Council meeting in Delft, INNO-Partnering Forum (innovation agencies working together for better SME innovation support services) published an option paper on: **"EU SBRI - options paper and study of international best practice. Proposal for establishment of EU SBIR"** (see the attachment)

For more information: Jenni Nordborg, Head of Department Bioentrepreneurship, VINNOVA, jenni.nordborg@vinnova.se; or Davis Golding, Head of Strategy, Technology Strategy Board, david.golding@tsb.gov.uk

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ERAPRSIM OMC-Net FP7 research project, published a report on **"Public Procurement for Innovation in Small European Countries"** which looks at the issue from the perspective of micro-economies in Europe. It also contains some new case studies (see attachment).

For more information: luke.georghiou@mbs.ac.uk / www.eraprism.eu/

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Good practice guide published by EuroPROC project (Interreg IVC) on **"SME's access to international public procurements"**, in July 2010: www.europroc.eu/en/deliverables/good-practices/4/

One of the main outputs of EuroPROC is the realization of a Guide of Good Practices on supporting services for SMEs on European and International Public Procurement. The aim of this guide is to provide a source of inspiration for those Business Support Organisations (BSO) planning to take further steps into providing the SMEs with services on IPP business opportunities. Furthermore, this guide offers clear information on the services that could match the needs of SME and the way to set them up and finance them.

For more information: Nicolas Espitalier: nespialier@acc10.cat

4. RUNNING PROJECTS

3 Enterprise Europe Networks www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm on "SMEs access to public procurement and innovation procurement" have been launched beginning 2011.

1/ PRISME project:

The aim of PRISME is to improve SMEs' access – and more particularly innovative SMEs' access - to public procurement by bridging the gap between them and public buyers. To achieve this goal, the activities carried out by PRISME will target SMEs on one side, public procurers on the other side, and public procurers and SMEs altogether. **Innovation and public procurement** will be the cornerstones of the actions implemented throughout the project.

Partners: Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Lyon (FR), Camera di Commercio, Industria, Artigianato e Agricoltura di Torino (IT), Promofirenze (IT), Auftragsberatungszentrum Bayern e.V. (GE), European Information Service Centre Limited (UK), Business Support Kent (UK), ACC10 (SP)

1st Newsletter available in FR, EN, GE, Catalan, SP: www.prismeprocurement.eu/newsletter/

For more information: Dolores Adamski: dolores.adamski@grex.fr / www.prismeprocurement.eu

Forthcoming events:

- § Feb. 14th, 2011 (Grenoble, France) and Feb. 15th, 2011 (Lyon, France), and Feb. 22th, 2011 (Munich, Germany): conferences dedicated to public buyers on public procurement and innovation.
- § March 10th (Eastleigh, UK), April 5th (Bournemouth, UK): training sessions on public procurement.
- § June 2011 (Berlin, Germany): face to face meetings SMEs/public procurers in the framework of the Transports Interiors fair.
- § Other events will be planned soon. Please check on www.prismeprocurement.eu/events/

2/ T4SME (Tenders for SMEs)

T4SME is an ongoing project concerning **global public tendering and public procurement** with a focus on sustainable construction. The aim is to make SMEs aware of the international tenders **highlighting UN tenders**. T4SME is a Specific Action within the Enterprise Europe Network, and will run until October 2012.

The project will identify some of the concrete problems faced by SMEs and thereby **provide a series of training and information events** to ensure that SMEs can take part more actively and more successfully in tenders. Furthermore, as part of the project T4SME partners will provide information to public authorities on appropriate and successful methods of ensuring that SMEs are integrated into contracts.

The goal is to **make SMEs aware of their possibilities within global tendering** and not miss out on any of the great opportunities.

The T4SME partners are: North Denmark EU Office (DK) (Coordinator), Europa Institutet (SE), ALMI (SE), EISC Ltd (UK), Trade Council Iceland (IS), Internationalisation Centre Styria (AT), Investment & Trade Department Hungary (HU), Malta Enterprise (MT) and Estonian Chamber of Commerce (EE).

For more information: Karen Rubæk Holm: krh@aalborg.dk / www.internationaltenders.eu (soon available).

3/ PPP-SPS -- procurement of innovation and innovative SMEs access to procurement

Are tenders on your radar? Do you want to source, understand and win public sector? PPP-SPS is an ongoing EU funded project aiming at improving businesses access and more particularly innovative businesses access to public procurement by bridging the gap between business and public buyers in Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK).

More than 20 training days will be organised across the UK and Ireland so as to compensate for SMEs' lack of technical capacities in this field. The training programme has been established in close cooperation with National Public Authorities (National Public Procurement Policy Unit, etc.) to maximize the benefit of the action. Though these training days the project will identify real and perceived barriers faced by small companies.

National "Procurement days" will also be organised in both countries so as to enable a better information flow between SMEs and Public buyers. These events will be attended by all relevant stakeholders and include a "Meet the Buyers" session.

This project is being delivered by Dublin, Galway, Sligo, Waterford Chambers of Commerce and EISC Ltd Southampton and will run until August 2012. For further information please contact Marion Jammet: marion@dublinchamber.ie

TRAINING DAYS

2011

3 March Galway, Irl
4 March Sligo, Irl
14 March New Forest, UK
21/22 March Waterford, Irl
24/25 March Dublin, Irl
5 May Galway, Irl
6 May Sligo, Irl
8/9 September Waterford, Irl

1 November Bournemouth, UK
9 November Galway, Irl
10 November Sligo, Irl
17/18 November Dublin, Irl
23 November Galway, Irl
24 November Sligo, Irl
6 December Bournemouth, UK
2012
17th January Southampton, UK
21 February Winchester, UK

NATIONAL PROCUREMENT EVENTS

16 February 2012
National Procurement Event – Ireland
21 March 2012 (TBC)
National Procurement Event – UK

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State of play of the 3 Lead Market Initiative-Public Procurement Networks

LCB-HEALTHCARE

The network (www.lowcarbon-healthcare.eu) was officially launched at a European conference of health property professionals in Stockholm in May 2010 and stakeholders consultations commenced at the European Congress on Healthcare Planning and Design in June 2010. A wide variety of stakeholders, from different countries, have already registered on the website and a survey of barriers to investment in low carbon solutions was launched in August.

This, and the initial lessons that are being learned from the national pilots, will help inform a European state-of-the-art report that is planned for publication before the end of 2010; Contact: info@lowcarbon-healthcare.eu or Gaynor Whyles gaynor.whyles@jeraconsulting.com

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ENPROTEX

The **Network of Public Procurement Organisations for Protective Textile and PPE**, seeks to: spark innovation through public procurement to meet future needs of fire services; develop cooperation among public procurers; provide an interface to both end-users and manufacturers. The project aims to provide industry with forward commitments for the procurement of protective textiles products.

We would like to invite stakeholders to collaborate with this project in order to strengthen the European protective textile Network by completing the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/BLVJGV6

We are particularly interested in finding out what issues procurers are trying to find solutions for which are not catered for by products already on the market (e.g. heat-stroke, comfort, greater dexterity in gloves etc.) and what issues may prevent you from buying innovative solutions (e.g. complicated EU procurement rules, spending cuts etc.)

Website: www.enprotex.eu/index; Contact: joshua.osifeso@firebuy.gov.uk

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SCI-NETWORK

The SCI-NETWORK, **Sustainable Construction and Innovation through Procurement**, connects European public authorities working to find new, innovative and sustainable solutions for their construction projects. It is part of the Lead Market Initiative targeting the sustainable construction sector, and the network also includes experts working in this field.

Five working groups are currently researching European best practice on a number of specific issues. The first results of this research will be available in mid-March, and will be available on the website at www.sci-network.eu. They will also be presented in a webinar towards the end of March (date not yet confirmed). Information on this will also be available on the website nearer the time. The website also contains an overview of all working groups, the issues they are researching, and the planned outputs.

If you would like to participate free of charge in the Network, and join the working group discussions please write to sci-network@iclei.org

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Barcelona Vice-Chair of Procura+ Campaign procures innovative electric vehicle charging points and vending machines

Barcelona, the Catalan capital that has been active in sustainable public procurement for some years has been purchasing different innovative products. The vice-chair of the Procura+ Campaign, a movement of procurers for sustainable public procurement with members from Iceland to Croatia and Finland to Italy, focused on stimulating the supply of electric vehicles, by purchasing charging points, and energy efficient vending machines within the SMART SPP project.

In terms of the charging points for electric vehicles, Barcelona's City Council published a call for tender in 2010 for the installation and maintenance of 20 charging points. The environmental criteria included in the tendering documents were designed following an early market engagement session where interested companies were invited to participate.

On the subject of vending machines, following several one to one interviews with companies, and internal discussions, the City Council produced a list of potential environmental and health related criteria for discussion with interested suppliers at the end of 2010. The idea behind the latter is to inform vending machine companies (both manufacturers and service providers) of the recently endorsed energy efficiency classification method for vending machines from the European Vending Association, as well as other possible improvements to the service. Barcelona aims to tender for the service by early 2011.

For more information, please contact Mar Campanero mcampanero@bcn.cat from Barcelona City Council or Helena Estevan helena.estevan@ecoinstitut.es from the Ecoinstitut Barcelona or visit www.smart-spp.eu and www.procuraplus.org.

5. COLLECTION OF BEST PRACTICE

Case study: "Ultra Efficient Lighting for Future Wards" from The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, **England:** www.lowcarbon-healthcare.eu

The project team, which included the Director of Estates and Facilities, Head of Procurement and the BIS Consultant **Forward Commitment Procurement** (FCP) Programme Manager, used the FCP methodology to stimulate innovation in the supply chain to meet 'unmet needs' identified as part of the programme.

Great results/ benefits have been already achieved in terms of: finances, installation, improved patient experience, improved staff outcomes and improved construction outcomes (**see more in attachment**).

Contact: info@lowcarbon-healthcare.eu or Gaynor Whyles gaynor.whyles@jeraconsulting.com

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Procurement of Innovation: Case studies compilation

In order to progress in the support of innovation through public procurement, we are compiling case studies. We would be grateful if you could send us any case studies or best practice of procurement of innovation in any EU languages, to: bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu

6. CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS/ SEMINARS (Future or Past)

Future

"Pursuing Sustainable Development through Public Procurement"

Type of event: Workshop to identify and discuss key legal issues

When and where: **3 March 2011, Brussels, European Parliament**, Rue Wiertz / B-1047 Brussels / Room A1E-1

Organised by: Heide Rühle, Member of the European Parliament

Description: To provide the legal background for the current debate on social considerations in public procurement and to introduce and frame the key legal issues presented by the current debate in the context of the Lisbon Treaty. To identify key obstacles to pursuing sustainable development through public procurement, in the

experience of contracting authorities under the current procurement regime. To identify and frame key legal questions at issue in the current debate about social considerations in public procurement. To discuss how social consideration can be operationalised as part of the award stage of the procurement process, i.e., the use of social considerations as technical specifications or other award criteria

Further information: heide.ruehle@europarl.europa.eu ; www.heide-ruehle.de

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"Innovation Through Public Procurement" (Dutch, French & English)

Type of event: Workshop

When and where: **30 March 2011, Brussels, Belgium**

Organised by: Belgian Ministry of Economy: SPF Economie/ Structuur van de FOD Economie

Description: The crucial role of public procurement to foster innovation policy from the application has been highlighted in Europe 2020, in the proposals of the Single Market Act and the Communication on European Innovation European Commission. Consistent with its strategic program "Innovation", the FPS is organizing a workshop on this issue.

Further information and contact: Dirk.Mons@economie.fgov.be

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"Sustainable Innovation Strategies: Industry meets research"

Type of event: Public seminar as part of the 6th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and Organisation.

When and where: **13-15 April 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Organised by: Danish Building Research Institute/Aalborg University in collaboration with the Danish Association of Construction Clients, the International Construction Clients Forum and CIB – the international council for building research

Description: The conference aims at unpacking the construction/society nexus in order to discuss the mutual constitution and transformation of practices of production and consumption of the built environment. The production and consumption of construction goods and services are embedded in a network of institutionalised structures and practices, which is increasingly being shaped by the proliferation of new and emerging societal needs and trends. Different concepts and methods such as performance management, user-driven innovation, supply-chain integration and Building Information Modelling have been introduced to develop the sector and address the challenges that arise from these new perspectives. However, what are the consequences for the existing modes of procurement, management, regulation and governance in and of construction, and how are traditional practices, roles and responsibilities transformed as a result?

Further information and contact: Kim Haugbølle, khh@sbi.dk ; <http://6nordic.sbi.dk/index.php/SBI/6nordic>

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"Power of the Purse: Can European governments use their procurement powers to stimulate innovation?"

Type of event: Invitation only event,

When and where: **16 April 2011, 09:00 – 14:00, Brussels, Belgium**

Organised by: Hosted by European Parliament; Science Business

Description: As part of its Innovation Union strategy, the European Commission has set an allocation of €10 billion specifically for government agencies to buy innovative products and services.

A discussion with the key policy-makers responsible for this initiative:

- Malcolm Harbour, Member of the European Parliament
- Robert Madelin, Director-General, Information Society and Media, European Commission
- Jan Muhlfelt, Chairman, Microsoft EMEA
- Khalil Rouhana, Head of Unit, Information Society and Media, European Commission
- Peter Dröll, Head of Unit, Enterprise and Industry, European Commission
- Michel Troubetzkoy, Senior Vice President, EADS
- Jean-Claude Burgelman, Head of Unit, DG Research

The idea: To harness the purchasing power of the public sector towards stimulating more innovation – the way the US government has done with its DARPA and SBIR programmes.

Many EU members have already started down this road. But how will it work on a larger scale? How should standard procedures for so-called 'pre-commercial procurement' be modified to encourage it?

Further information and contact: events@sciencebusiness.net ; <http://www.sciencebusiness.net/MembershipOverview.aspx>

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"How to improve SMEs access to Public Procurement?"

Type of event: conference

When and where: **2 June 2011, Barcelona, Spain**

Organised by: Catalan Business Support Agency, ACC10 (euroPROC Project)

Description: This Conference aims at promoting the debate among the Public Buyers, Private Sector and Policy makers on How to improve SMEs access to International/Public Procurement. During the plenary session, the main topics will be "Supporting SMEs Innovation through Public Procurement" and the "Guide of Good Practices". Afterwards, 4 parallel roundtables will be dedicated to "New Approaches to Public Procurement": e-Public Procurement; Green Public Procurement; Social Considerations; Pre-commercial Procurement

Further information: www.europroc.eu; Contact: Nicolas Espitalier, nespitalier@acc10.cat

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"First European Conference of EU Protective Textiles Public Procurers"

Type of event: conference

When and where: **8-9 June 2011, Brussels, Belgium**

Organised by: ENPROTEX, Lead Market Initiative, project (European Network For Protective Textiles)

Description: This conference aims to promote a connected community of European public procurers, suppliers (including SMEs), research organizations and end-users in order to strengthen the European protective textile market.

Further information: www.enprotex.eu/index; Contact: joshua.osifeso@firebuy.gov.uk

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"Public Procurement of Innovation: Facing societal challenges, delivering better public services & supporting SMEs to innovate"

Type of event: conference

When and where: **June 2011, Torino, Italy**

Organised by: the city of Torino, the Piemonte Region

Description: This European conference hosted by the city of Torino, the Piemonte Region and under the patronage of the Vice President of the European Commission, Antonio Tajani, intends to cover challenges developed by demand-side innovation policies, particularly innovation procurement stakes, and to make publicity on forthcoming call for proposals to financially support public procurement of innovation.

Further information: www.sci-network.eu; Contact: elena.deambrogio@comune.torino.it

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Past

"Achat public et innovation"

Type of event: expert meeting

When and where: **Grenoble and Lyon (France) 14-15 February 2011**

Organised by: Projet PRISME, la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Grenoble, la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Lyon et le Club Marchés du Moniteur

Description: Comment ouvrir la commande publique aux PME innovantes et utiliser les dispositions légales, et notamment l'article 26 de la Loi de modernisation de l'économie

- § Connaître l'offre innovante
- § Passer des marchés de R&D
- § Réserver des marchés aux PME innovantes
- § Attribuer des marchés aux PME innovantes
- § Faciliter le passage de la recherche à la production
- § Propositions d'évolutions réglementaires du Pacte PME

Further information: www.prismeproquement.eu contact: dolores.adamski@grex.fr

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Conference For Public Procurers and Innovation

Type of event: conference

When and where: **Berlin, 15.02.2011**

www.bme.de/index.php?id=oeffentliche

Organised by: Federal Economics Ministry's

Description: During that conference prize for innovation in German public procurement has been awarded to the hospital in Hamburg (for the procurement of an just-in-time internal and external logistics solution) and a joint project of several local authorities and a provincial authority for an innovative organisation of street and sewage works (which led to over 60% savings with constant quality).

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"Innovation procurement by SBIR and PCP: Towards a European Collaboration"

2nd international expert meeting.

Type of event: expert meeting

When and where: **20 & 21 January 2011, The Hague, The Netherlands**

Organised by: The Technopolicy Network and various Member States, Innovation agencies

Description: the expert meeting will focus fully on national and European aspects of Innovation Procurement; i.e. to use procurement strategies for catalyzing innovation and supporting SMEs, high-tech companies. The European Commission is preparing a pilot for a European scheme for Innovation Procurement/ SBIR. This is an important development also for Member States/ Regions and gives countries with a running or future program the opportunity to share expertise and views on this future EU program.

Further information and contact: Steef Lowik, s.lowik@technopolicy.net and all presentations available here: www.technopolicy.net/sbir/

We are sending trimester e-newsletter to update you on European actions in public procurement & innovation. Do not hesitate to send us announcements on policy initiatives, conferences/ workshops and new projects on that filed at: bertrand.wert@ec.europa.eu