

## **Centralized Automated Electronic Procurement Information System Launches**

The Public Procurement Agency shall make available the Centralized Automated Electronic Procurement Information System (CAIS). Until 1 November 2019, the single national electronic web-based platform is available to all contracting authorities, contractors and other end-users. They will have the opportunity to make their registration, to get acquainted in detail with the developed modules and the available functionalities of the system, in order to gain experience and knowledge about its practical application, in order to ensure a smooth transition to e-procurement. During this period, users will also be able to make suggestions for improvements.

The centralized automated information system will fully digitize the procurement process and increase transparency and fair competition. According to the Public Procurement Act, after November 1, 2019, public procurement in the country will be mandatory through the CAIS EOP.

The system is publicly available 24 hours a day through the Agency's website. The initial registration of an organization on the national platform is by a person with a professional qualification electronic signature (QES) of the organization. Such QES will also be required for any legal action in the system after November 1, 2019.

CAIS EOP is linked to the BULSTAT Register and the Trade Register, which allows the information on Bulgarian organizations and persons to be extracted ex officio.

Contracting entities that already have batch numbers in the Public Procurement Register will receive the same batch numbers upon registration in the system.

The person who completed the initial registration acquires Administrator rights and should invite other users of the organization to register by sending an email. There may be more than one Organization Administrator per organization.

For the convenience of users, electronic guides for contracting authorities and businesses are available on the platform.

The Agency for Public Procurement will provide expert assistance for working with the CAIS EOP through the End-User Service Center. Information and consultations can be made on the national telephone 0700 17 151, every working day from 09:00 to 17:30. to the subscriber.

The single national electronic web-based platform is the first stage in the implementation of the CAIS EOP. All modules of the system are expected to be completed by the end of 2020.