

2015 mission and objectives for the UK National e-Invoicing Forum

Mission: “To save the UK tax-payer money and improve service quality and transparency by replacing paper invoices with wholly electronic transactions.”

Objectives:

- 1. Support for Government Policy Making:** to engage with Crown Commercial Service and provide expert opinion on the implementation of electronic invoicing by the UK Public Sector as described in the Small Business Enterprise and Employment Act. The forum intends to argue the case for an ‘e-invoicing/e-procurement champion’, who will be responsible for advising on existing EU directives and for delivering widespread e-invoicing adoption across the UK public sector. Another key area is the creation of an ‘e-invoicing national framework agreement’ that is re-usable across all public sector entities. The forum believes that the creation of a framework will increase the adoption of e-invoicing.
- 2. Awareness and Implementation Support for Buyers and Suppliers:** to champion, promote and advocate widespread adoption of electronic invoicing within the context of growing supply chain automation and end-to-end electronic transactions between buyers and sellers of goods and services.
- 3. Improving the Internal Activities of the UKNeF:** The forum believes it needs to broaden its remit and become more inclusive of other geographies and related interest areas. We will aim to build our relationship with the NHS and also look to build stronger ties with Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. The inclusion of e-procurement will be essential as the European Commission looks to tie electronic invoicing and procurement together. Working with supplier finance bodies will also bring another important dimension into the electronic invoicing proposition.

Initiatives

1. Public Affairs: To involve and support the UK public sector at all levels so as to deliver benefits to the taxpayer and the economy at large and to provide input to policy initiatives. To make a particular effort to:

- a. Identify and support Government leadership and influencers
- b. Develop a clear marketing and communications strategy, including:
 - i. a cross-party briefing paper
 - ii. input to public procurement reviews
 - iii. a clear public sector business case/case studies
- c. Promote e-Invoicing to key public sector bodies, including local authorities and Government shared service centres

2. European policy:

To monitor and respond to the emerging European policy agenda, especially in the areas of further legal and VAT simplification and harmonization, standard setting, and governance to be set out in a European Commission Policy Communication.

To continue participation in the proposed European Multi-Stakeholder Forum to ensure public policy and its implementation supports UK businesses.

3. Small business:

To create a particular focus on the specific needs of small businesses and the actions needed to ensure their engagement and inclusion.

4. Interoperability:

To maintain and develop the UKNeF 'interoperability charter for the Public Sector' where all UK service providers agree to interoperate for public sector electronic invoices that is supported and promoted by service providers.

Group approach

1. The group will operate in a non-competitive, cooperative space.

2. Meetings will be inclusive of all stakeholder interests, both public and private sector, and operate in an open and transparent manner
3. Whilst addressing an area requiring strategic transformation, the group will adopt scoped and realistic objectives.
4. Initiatives undertaken will be agreed among the Group to be concrete, feasible and effective and their execution closely monitored.
5. The Group will meet on a regular basis and at least quarterly.

The UK National e-Invoicing Forum was set up in 2010 as a self-funded initiative of industry associations, public sector bodies, interested parties and solution providers to promote e-Invoicing in the UK public and private sectors. **Our mission is to help UK public bodies and commercial enterprises of all sizes save money and understand the benefits of replacing paper invoices with wholly electronic transactions.**

It is our intention to champion and advocate widespread adoption of electronic invoicing between buyers and sellers of goods and services. The UKNeF promotes the benefits of e-Invoicing to the UK Public Sector and the wider UK economy, meeting regularly at the Houses of Parliament and the Department for Business. As the official UK forum on e-Invoicing, sponsored by the Department for Business, we delegate the UK participants that provide expert input to the current EU Commission Multi-Stakeholder Forum. Our UK delegates lead the working group on best practice within EU Commission Forum and our participation ensures that emerging EU policy and regulation supports UK public and private interests.

We are committed to help commercial enterprises and public bodies of all shapes and sizes to understand the business case and benefits for electronic invoice adoption, in particular reducing the administrative burden on small and medium-sized enterprises and to promote a lively and innovative UK market for the provision of relevant solutions and services. The benefits of electronic invoicing are clear;

- *Substantial cost savings through reduction in manual work, material and transport costs.*
- *Additional cost savings from fraud and loss prevention, and lower auditing costs for trading parties and tax authorities.*
- *Enabling of accelerated payments, improved cash flow and reduced credit losses for both large and small enterprises. E-Invoicing could unlock the potential for new collateralised lending services at a time of subdued growth in traditional credit products, especially for SMEs.*
- *Raising productivity and customer satisfaction in both the public and the private sector, and improving UK competitiveness overall.*
- *Enabling workforce transition to more productive activities and a learning vehicle to increased use of electronic practices throughout the public and private sectors.*
- *A direct contribution to carbon savings and resultant environmental gains*

The UK National e-Invoicing Forum meets on a regular basis and operates in an entirely non-competitive, cooperative space. Our meetings are inclusive of both public and private sector stakeholder interests. **We operate in an open, transparent and informal** manner.

Whilst addressing an area requiring strategic transformation, **the group adopts scoped and realistic objectives.** Initiatives undertaken are agreed among the group to be concrete, feasible and effective and their execution always closely monitored.