**PAN-EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ON-LINE (PEPPOL) KEY DETAILS**

## What is PEPPOL

The Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line (PEPPOL) is an open standard which enables the exchange of standardised machine-readable documents over its network. Some of the documents it can carry include: e-Invoice, e-Advance Shipping Notes, eCatalogues, Message Level Responses and e-Orders.

PEPPOL is owned and maintained by the non-profit organisation OpenPEPPOL, and governed by a multilateral agreement structure. It was formed from the EU's need for cross-border interoperability in public procurement processes, and has gone on to prove its relevance outside Europe and for business-to-business interoperability.

There are 277 members from 31 countries on the PEPPOL network, with 176 Access Points (AP) spread across 19 European countries, Canada and the US. These APs serve over 120 thousand entities who exchanged more than 60 million electronic invoices in 2017.

## Benefits of PEPPOL

PEPPOL's open standard enables business process interoperability, with its eDelivery Network and Transport Infrastructure Agreements providing the technical and legal basis for interoperability.

Buyers and suppliers are free to choose their preferred AP provider. Once enabled, buyers and sellers are connected with all PEPPOL participants already on the network. These APs facilitate a 'Connect once, connect to all' concept which accelerates access to other players.

## Who's who in PEPPOL

**OpenPEPPOL**: OpenPEPPOL is a non-profit international association under Belgian law (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif) and consists of both public and private sector members. The association assumes full responsibility for the development and

maintenance of the PEPPOL specifications, building blocks and its services and implementation.

**PEPPOL Authority**: PEPPOL Authorities are appointed by OpenPEPPOL to set national rules and country-specific requirements for service providers in the Authority's country to conform to. The local PEPPOL Authority is also in charge of approving and certifying Service Metadata Providers and Access Point providers. Currently, there are eleven PEPPOL Authorities (including Singapore):

- Agency for Digital Italy (Italy)
- Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Norway)
- Danish Business Authority (Denmark)
- Department of Health (UK)
- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Ireland)
- Federal Public Service Policy and Support (Belgium)
- Financial Management Authority (Sweden)
- Free Hanseatic City of Bremen – KoSIT (Germany)
- Infocomm Media Development Authority (Singapore)
- Ministry of Economic Development (Poland)
- SimplerInvoicing (Netherlands)

Countries with no authorities can have SMP and AP providers approved and certified by OpenPEPPOL.

**Access Point (AP) providers**: APs receive messages from their clients – PEPPOL-format them if necessary – then route the messages to the relevant receiving AP node via the eDelivery Network. Each AP is a node on the network. The receiving AP will send on received messages to the intended final recipient.

AP providers may offer value-added services, such as formatting non-standardised messages into the standard form (E.g. from a PDF invoice into the machine-readable PEPPOL format), beyond being sender/receivers.

**PEPPOL Service Metadata Publisher (SMP) providers**: Businesses who have signed up for, and can receive, PEPPOL documents must publish their receiving capabilities (e.g. delivery addresses, business processes and document types supported, etc.) using a separate service called a Service Metadata Publisher (SMP). The SMP is a local 'address book' which lists businesses and their chosen receiving capabilities. The central 'address book' - a Service Metadata Locator - is maintained and managed by OpenPEPPOL in cooperation with the European Commission.

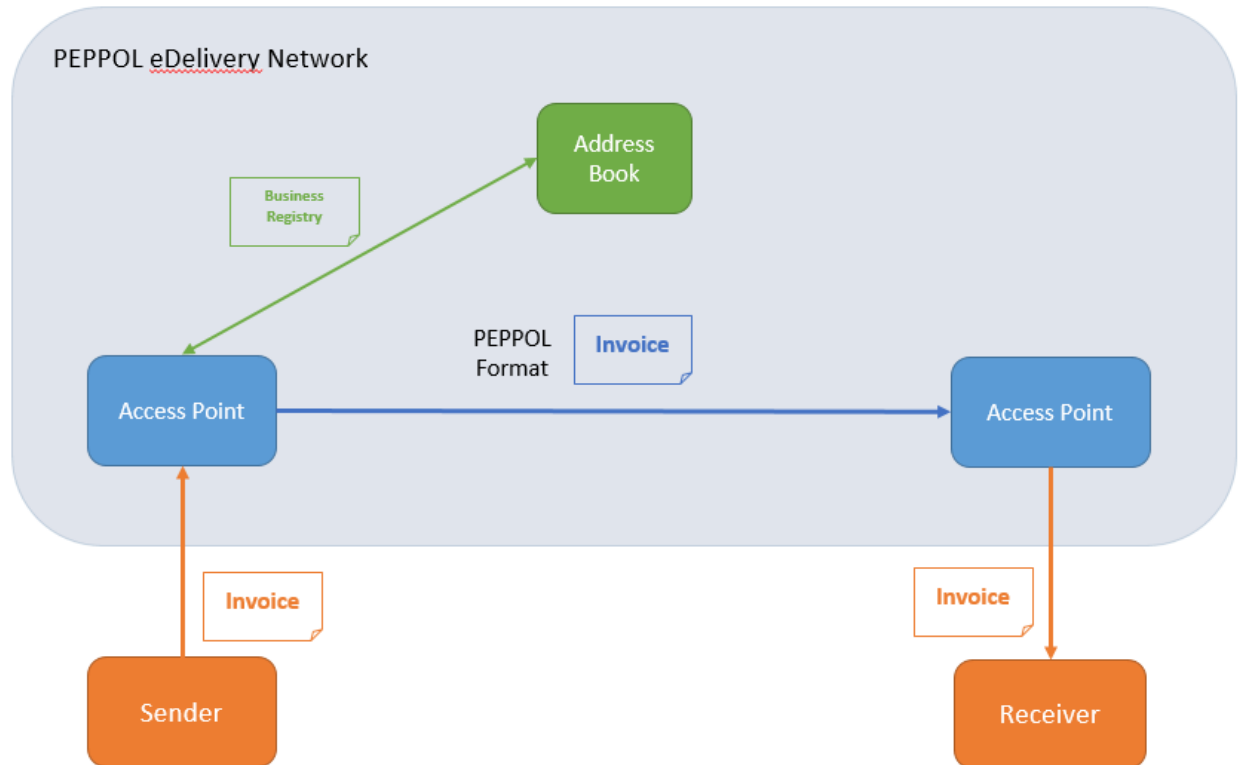## PEPPOL Components

PEPPOL has three components:

- eDelivery Network
- Business Interoperability Specifications (BIS)
- Transport Infrastructure Agreements (TIA)

Combined, the three components provide the organisational, technical and legal basis for interoperability of PEPPOL.

**eDelivery Network**: The eDelivery Network connects all Access Points. Standardised messaging protocols and formats, alongside digital signatures are used to secure messages during transit.

**BIS**: BIS is a collection of specifications each encapsulating the common business processes and technical standards for a specific transmission item (e.g. e-Invoices). Documents sent on the eDelivery Network must adhere to their relevant BIS specifications. BIS is maintained by OpenPEPPOL and based on the open ISO standard "Universal Business Language" (UBL – ISO/IEC 19845).

**TIA**: All businesses that wish to be SMPs or AP Providers, must sign the TIA with OpenPEPPOL or the Authority appointed by OpenPEPPOL. This is to ensure that services are provided in conformance to the technical standards and service specifications of OpenPEPPOL and the relevant authority.

*Figure 1: Sample of sending an e-Invoice on the PEPPOL network*

**For more information:**

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