

NATIONWIDE E-INVOICING FRAMEWORK

In May 2018, the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) became the first National Authority outside of Europe to join OpenPEPPOL. Since joining, efforts have been underway to implement the Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line (PEPPOL) e-invoicing standard and the underlying infrastructure. These have been completed and the network is now live. Companies in the Republic will now be able to start exchanging e-invoices via the network with other similarly-connected parties.

Electronic invoicing or e-invoicing is the automated creation, exchange and processing of payment requests between suppliers and buyers using a structured digital format. It provides many efficiency gains over existing invoices (e.g. PDF/Word documents/scanned invoices) which require some level of human input to process. For more details on how the PEPPOL network works, please refer to **Annex B-1**.

As Singapore's PEPPOL Authority, in addition to setting any relevant domestic rules and specifications, IMDA has also appointed Singapore Network Information Centre¹ (SGNIC) to operate the Service Metadata Publisher (SMP). The SMP lists all the companies registered on the Singapore PEPPOL network and allows Access Points (APs) to lookup companies before sending them e-invoices. The SMP service will be offered as a free service by SGNIC.

As Singapore's PEPPOL Authority, IMDA is also responsible for the certification of local AP providers. Companies or e-invoice service providers will need to connect to the PEPPOL network through these certified APs.

IMDA has already certified an initial batch of 11 AP providers. These APs include both local and overseas service providers which offer a wide range of services to meet various business requirements. There are an additional 10 APs who have started the process of

¹ SGNIC is a subsidiary of IMDA

becoming an AP and more are expected over time. To encourage early adoption in the private sector, part of the S\$30 million funding will be used for e-invoice adoption.

On the government front, IMDA is working with several key government agencies, such as Accountant General's Department (AGD), to drive the adoption of e-invoicing. AGD is joining the nationwide e-invoicing framework to provide government vendors with greater options when transacting with the Government, in addition to the current Vendors@Gov system. AGD will be sourcing for a service provider in the coming months. The Singapore Government is committed to coming onboard the nationwide e-invoicing network and more details will be provided later in the year.

In responding to the progress which Singapore has made since joining OpenPEPPOL, Mr. André Hoddevik, OpenPEPPOL Secretary General noted, "We are happy to see the central role Singapore has given the PEPPOL approach in their national strategy for E-Invoicing". He added, "With IMDA as the first PEPPOL Authority outside of Europe, the official launch of the PEPPOL eDelivery Network in Singapore is a big milestone for OpenPEPPOL. We appreciate that Singapore now serves as an example for other countries outside of Europe that are considering strategies to support domestic and cross-border E-Invoicing."

Companies interested in finding out more about the Singapore PEPPOL network and the current certified APs can visit imda.gov.sg/einvoice or email einvoice@imda.gov.sg.

About Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) leads Singapore's digital transformation with infocomm media. To do this, IMDA will develop a dynamic digital economy and a cohesive digital society, driven by an exceptional infocomm media (ICM) ecosystem – by developing talent, strengthening business capabilities, and enhancing Singapore's ICM infrastructure. IMDA also regulates the telecommunications and media sectors to safeguard consumer interests while fostering a pro-business environment, and enhances Singapore's data protection regime through the Personal Data Protection Commission. For more news and information, visit www.imda.gov.sg or follow IMDA on Facebook IMDAsg and Twitter @IMDAsg.

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