

The Governments of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have each received soft loan financing in the amount of 1.5 Million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) which is equivalent to US\$2.4 Million, from the World Bank, for implementation of the OECS Electronic Government for Regional Integration Project (EGRIP). The loans are provided under a special facility of the concessional lending arm of the World Bank, the International Development Association (IDA).

The overall development objective of EGRIP is to promote the efficiency, quality, and transparency of public services in the beneficiary countries, through the delivery of regionally integrated e-government applications that take advantage of economies of scale.

Component 1 is Horizontal Electronic Government Interventions. The main objectives are to (i) strengthen and harmonise national and regional e-government processes, operational ICT platforms and frameworks; (ii) to promote more efficient regionally-based ICT development and strengthen capacity; (iii) to provide an enabling environment to achieve Public Administration objectives in a globally competitive context; and (iv) to better serve citizens, businesses and consumers in the region.

Component 2 is Vertical E-Government Interventions. The objective is to harmonize and improve key regional e-government systems by focusing on specific interventions in core areas of public finance.

EGRIP Subcomponent 2.2 deals with the development of a regional e-procurement platform, based on the successful experience of the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service (PPS).

Consequent to the above, a consulting company, European Dynamics S.A. (EDSA) was contracted to design, develop and install a Partial Electronic

Tendering System to assist the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service (PPS) to carry out its pooled procurement mandate, and include major modules for:

- Centralized Registration;
- User-specific Administrative Dashboards;
- E-Tendering (demand aggregation to signing of contract);
- Basic contract Management;
- System and Security administration, and
- Online Help.

In this regard, the OECS Secretariat is pleased to announce that on June 20, 2013, the Electronic Procurement System for the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service (EPPSS) was launched. From July 2013, all PPS procurement activities for the OECS Member States will be done through the electronic system (<https://procurement.oecs.org/epps>).