

THE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS AGREEMENT

Between

And

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Electronic Transactions Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT comprises the General Clauses for electronic transactions.

The terms of this Agreement shall govern the conduct and methods of operation between the parties in relation to the electronic exchange of data for the purposes of or associated with the supply of Contractor Deliverables pursuant to those contracts which reference it. Except as otherwise provided in the appended terms, the terms do not apply to the substance of the data transfer. This Agreement shall have the date of and be effective from the date of the last signature hereunder.

AGREED

For and on behalf of:

For and on behalf of:

Secretary of State for Defence

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Whose Registered Office is at:

Whose Address is:

Agreement reference number:

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Electronic Transactions

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1. Definitions

- a. In this Agreement, in addition to the definitions in DEFCON 501 (or Schedule 1 of Standardised Contracting Templates 2 (SC2) or 3 (SC3)):
- i. **"Acknowledgement of Receipt"** means the procedure by which, on receipt of a Message, the logical presentation or form are checked, and a corresponding acknowledgement or rejection is sent by the receiver;
 - ii. **"Adopted Protocol"** means the method(s) for the Interchange of Messages between the respective Parties and an intermediary appointed pursuant to Clause 8 for the presentation and structuring of the transmission of Messages as defined in Annex A
 - iii. **"Associated Data"** means that data which accompanies a Message but may not be in the Adopted Protocol; such data may include header information, protective markings, designations, Electronic Signatures, date and time of transmission and of receipt;
 - iv. **"Data"** means all Messages and Associated Data transmitted, received or stored in a digital form;
 - v. **"Data File"** means a single record or collection of data records that are logically related to each other, and are handled as a unit;
 - vi. **"Data Log"** means a complete record of all Data Interchanged representing the Messages and their Associated Data between the parties;
 - vii. **"Purchase to Payment Gateway" or "ePurchasing"** mean the service provided by the party under contract to the Authority to manage the electronic receipt, transmission and translation of messages exchanged between the Authority and its suppliers;
 - viii. **"Electronic Signature"** means anything in electronic or digital form incorporated into or otherwise logically associated with an electronic communication for the purpose of establishing the authenticity of the communication or its integrity, or both;
 - ix. **"Expunge"** means the removal of the information contained in a Message document such that the content of the Message is removed from the system in a manner which precludes its retrieval (but with no obligation in respect of the record of its receipt);
 - x. **"Functional Acknowledgement"** means an acknowledgement Message by the receiving party's computer software application which automatically confirms the receipt of a Message at the moment of receipt;
 - xi. **"Interchange"** means the electronic exchange of Data between the Parties using the Adopted Protocol;

- xii. "**Message**" means Data structured in accordance with the Adopted Protocol and transmitted electronically between the parties including where the context admits any part of such Data.

2. Scope

- a. The Messages to be exchanged under this Agreement are detailed in the Message Implementation Guidelines referred to in Annex A, which also includes guidance on how these should be profiled.
- b. This Agreement shall apply to all Messages passed between the parties using the Adopted Protocol. The parties agree that all such Messages shall be transmitted in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- c. The parties may agree additional or alternative terms to reflect additional or different requirements which they may have for the Interchange of Messages, which terms shall form part of this Agreement.

3. Security of Data

- a. Each of the parties shall:
 - i. ensure as far as reasonably practicable, that Data is properly stored, is not accessible to unauthorised persons, is not altered, lost or destroyed and is capable of being retrieved only by properly authorised persons;
 - ii. subject to the provisions of Sub-Clause 8.a. ensure that, in addition to any security, proprietary and other information disclosure provision contained in the Contract, Messages and Associated Data are maintained in confidence, are not disclosed or transmitted to any unauthorised person and are not used for any purpose other than that communicated by the sending party or permitted by the Contract;
 - iii. protect further transmission to the same degree as the originally transmitted Message and Associated Data when further transmissions of Messages and Associated Data are permitted by the Contract or expressly authorised by the sending party.
- b. The sending party shall ensure that Messages are marked in accordance with the requirements of the Contract. If a further transmission is made pursuant to Sub-Clause 3. a. iii. the sender shall ensure that such markings are repeated in the further transmission.
- c. The parties may apply special protection to Messages by encryption or by other agreed means, and may apply designations to the Messages for protective Interchange, handling and storage procedures. Unless the parties otherwise agree, the party receiving a Message so protected or designated shall use at least the same level of protection and protective procedures for any further transmission of the Message and its Associated Data for all responses to the Message and for all other communications by Interchange or otherwise to any other person relating to the Message.

- d. If either party becomes aware of a security breach or breach of confidence in relation to any Message or in relation to its procedures or systems (including, without limitation, unauthorised access to their systems for generation, authentication, authorisation, processing, transmission, storage, protection and file management of Messages) then it shall immediately inform the other party of such breach. On being informed or becoming aware of a breach the party concerned shall:
 - i. immediately investigate the cause, effect and extent of such breach;
 - ii. report the results of the investigation to the other party;
 - iii. use all reasonable endeavours to rectify the cause of such breach.
- e. Each party shall ensure that the contents of Messages that are sent or received are not inconsistent with the law, the application of which could restrict the content of a Message or limit its use, and shall take all necessary measures to inform without delay the other party if such an inconsistency arises.

4. Authenticity of Messages

- a. Each Message shall identify the sending party and receiving party and its authenticity shall be verified by the means specified in the Adopted Protocol.
- b. The parties agree not to contest the authenticity, admissibility or enforceability of Messages under the provisions of any applicable law relating to whether certain agreements are in writing and signed by the party to be bound thereby. Messages, when printed from electronic files and records established and maintained in the normal course of business will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other business records originated and maintained in documentary form.

5. Integrity of Messages

- a. The sending party shall ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that all Messages are complete, accurate and secure against being altered in the course of transmission and, subject to Sub-Clauses 5.b. 5.d. and 15, shall be liable for the direct consequences of any failure to perform its obligations under this Sub-Clause 5.a.
- b. Each party will accord all Messages the same status as would be applicable to a document or to information sent other than by electronic means, unless a Message can be shown to have been corrupted as a result of technical failure on the part of a machine, system or transmission line involved in the process of Interchange.
- c. Upon either party becoming aware that a Message has been corrupted or if any Message is identified as incorrect then that party shall inform the other and the sending party shall re-transmit the Message as soon as practicable with a clear indication that it is a corrected Message. Any liability of the sending party which would otherwise accrue from its failure to comply with the provisions of this Sub-Clause 5.c. shall not accrue if Sub-Clause 5.d. applies.

- d. Notwithstanding Sub-Clauses 5.a. and 5.c. the sending party shall not be liable for the consequences of a corrupted or incorrect transmission or any failure to re-transmit if the error is or should in all the circumstances be reasonably obvious to the receiving party. In such event the receiving party shall immediately notify the sending party thereof.
- e. If the receiving party has reason to believe that a Message is not intended for them they shall notify the sending party and if so requested by the sending party shall, so far as is reasonably possible, Expunge from its system the information contained in such Message.

6. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Messages

- a. Except where the Interchange of Messages takes place solely within ePurchasing, immediately upon receipt of a Message at its receipt computer, the receiving party's receipt computer shall automatically transmit a Functional Acknowledgement in return and additionally the sender may request an Acknowledgement of Receipt.
- b. An Acknowledgement of Receipt is required unless stipulated in the Contract to the contrary.
- c. Where an Acknowledgement of Receipt is required, the receiver of the Message to be acknowledged shall ensure that the acknowledgement or a rejection is sent within the time limit specified in the Contract or in Annex A to this Agreement if applicable or, if no limit is specified, within a reasonable period of time.
- d. Where an Acknowledgement of Receipt is required, if the sender does not receive the Acknowledgement of Receipt or rejection within the time limit applicable, or, if no time limit is specified, within a reasonable time, the sender may, upon giving notice to the receiver, treat the message as having no force or effect.
- e. Acknowledgement in accordance with this clause shall not be deemed to constitute acceptance of any offer contained in any Message. Acceptance of an offer contained in any Message which is intended to create a legally binding obligation shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Contract.
- f. A Message shall be understood to have been received from the sender:
 - i. if transmitted between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on a business day (recipient's time) on receipt by the sender of a Functional Acknowledgement; or
 - ii. if transmitted at any other time, at 09.00 on the first business day (recipient's time) on receipt by the sender of a Functional Acknowledgement; or
 - iii. if the Interchange of Messages takes place solely within ePurchasing, at the moment a Message is completed by pressing the submit button if transmitted between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on a business day (recipient's time) or if transmitted at any other time, at 09.00 on the first business day (recipient's time).

7. Storage of Data

- a. Each party shall maintain a Data Log or shall cause an intermediary to maintain a Data Log recording all Messages and Associated Data as sent and received without modification.
- b. The Data Logs may be maintained as Data Files on computer or by other suitable means provided that a copy of the Data can be readily retrieved and presented in human readable form. Procedures to enable a secure means of archiving Data Logs shall be detailed in the Contract or agreed between the parties.
- c. Each party shall be responsible for making such arrangements as may be necessary for the Data contained in its Data Log to be prepared as a correct record of the Messages and Associated Data as sent or received by that party. In the event that a party has destroyed its Data Log, the other party shall have no obligation to furnish it with any information recorded in its Data Log.
- d. Each party shall ensure that:
 - i. it has appointed an identifiable person responsible for the operation and management of that party's data processing system concerned with the interchange of Messages; and
 - ii. the person responsible for the data processing system concerned with the Interchange of Messages, or such other person as may be agreed by the parties or required by law, shall certify that the Data Log and any reproduction made from it is correct and complete.

8. Intermediaries

- a. Subject to Clause 15 if either party uses the services of an intermediary to transmit, log, store or process Messages, that party shall be responsible for any acts, failures or omissions by that intermediary in its provision of the said services as though they were his own acts, failures or omissions. The Authority shall be liable as between the Authority and the Contractor for any acts, failures or omissions of ePurchasing in its provision of the services of an intermediary as though they were the acts, failures or omissions of the Authority.
- b. Any party using an intermediary shall ensure that it is a contractual responsibility of the intermediary that no change in the substantive data content of the Messages to be transmitted is made and that such Messages are not disclosed to any unauthorised person.

9. Term and Termination

- a. This Agreement shall take effect as of the date of last signature and shall remain in full force and effect until terminated by either party upon giving one month's notice to the other. Any termination of this Agreement shall not affect contracts that call it up by reference prior to that termination.

- b. Notwithstanding termination for any reason, Clauses 3, 7 and 8 shall survive termination of this Agreement.
- c. Termination of this Agreement shall not affect any action required to complete or implement Messages which are sent prior to such termination.

10. Interruption of Service

- a. The parties acknowledge that service may be interrupted at times during the course of this Agreement. In such circumstances, the parties shall immediately consult each other on the use of alternative forms of communication to be used, including facsimile, telephone or paper. Any alternative forms of communication shall not be controlled by this Agreement.
- b. Applicable only in the absence of a relevant clause in the Contract:
 - i. Subject to Sub-Clause 10. a., a party shall not be deemed to be in breach of this Agreement by reason of any delay in performance, or non-performance, of any of its obligations hereunder to the extent that such delay or non-performance is due to any interruption of service or incident of Force Majeure as described in Sub-Clause 10.b.iii. below, of which he has notified the other party without delay
 - ii. The time for performance of that obligation shall then be extended accordingly. Sub-Clause 10. b. i. shall not operate so as to relieve liability for any matter which is a breach of Clause 3 of this Agreement
 - iii. For the purposes of this Agreement, Force Majeure means, in relation to either party, any circumstances beyond the reasonable control of that party.

11. Invalidity and Severability

In the event of a conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any law, regulation or decree affecting this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement so affected shall be regarded as null and void or shall, where practicable, be curtailed and limited to the extent necessary to bring it within the requirements of such law, regulation or decree but otherwise it shall not render null and void other provisions of this Agreement.

12. Notices

The provisions of DEFCON 526 (or Condition H3 if you are using SC2 / SC3) shall apply.

13. Precedence

In the event of any conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the Contract, then the terms of the Contract shall prevail in relation to the substance of the Messages in connection with the Contract.

14. Virus Control

Each party and its intermediary (if any) shall operate at all times a virus control check for all Interchange of Messages.

15. Limit of Liability

- a. Each party agrees that, in relation to any claim, or series of connected claims, including claims for negligence but excluding claims resulting from wilful misconduct, arising from any delay or omission or error in the electronic transmission or receipt of any message pursuant to this Agreement, the liability of either party to the other shall be limited to £10,000 (exclusive of VAT), or where the Contract provides otherwise, to such other amount as is specified in the Contract.
- b. For the avoidance of doubt, liability in relation to any claim arising under the Contract shall be determined in accordance with the Contract.
- c. In the event that a delay, omission or error as referred to in Clause 15a occurs, which causes a delay in the performance of an obligation by either party under the Contract, the period for the performance of that obligation by the affected party shall be extended by a period of time equal to the period of any such delay, omission or error.

16. Entire Agreement

This Agreement, including Annex A and any documents expressly referred to in this Agreement, represents the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all other agreements oral or written, and all other communications between the parties relating to the subject matter hereof provided that nothing in this Clause shall exclude any liability for fraudulent misrepresentation.

Message Implementation Guidelines (MIGs)

The current and applicable MIG as approved by the MOD within this agreement can be viewed on the D2BTrade Website: <http://www.d2btrade.com>.