

WIPO



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VENDOR REGISTRATION SYSTEM (VRS) FOR THE PROMOTION OF PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN WIPO MEMBER STATES

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The acquisition of goods and services to support the day-to-day operations of the Secretariat has been undergoing constant improvements in the recent years with the aim of achieving better cost-effectiveness and, at the same time, greater harmonization with the modernization trends within the overall United Nations system. In March 2006, a modern framework with clearly defined general principles, policies and procedures for procurement and contracts was promulgated, and changes in the organizational structure and in the management of procurement and contracting activities were introduced. The development of information technology systems and tools to support the new procurement process has also been initiated to facilitate the implementation of the new procurement rules and procedures. In addition, the Secretariat has also increased its participation in common procurement initiatives organized under inter-agency cooperation arrangements with the United Nations Secretariat and the other organizations of the United Nations system.

2. In line with the modernization of the procurement process, the development of a new, Internet-based Vendor Registration System (VRS) was initiated by the Secretariat in April 2007. The system, which is scheduled to become fully operational in October 2007, is a simple, Internet-based online self-registration procedure for commercial companies interested in participating in the procurement process of WIPO as potential suppliers of goods and/or professional services. While registration under the VRS is not mandatory for participating in the procurement activities of WIPO, commercial companies that do register would be systematically informed of procurement activities that are relevant to their line of business.

3. The VRS is designed as a free-of-charge, easy to access and user-friendly system for commercial companies to enlist themselves in the Secretariat's electronic vendor database. Procurement notices and other information will be systematically sent to all companies that have registered in the VRS as doing business in the relevant class of goods and/or services being procured. The system will be available to any commercial company anywhere in the world via the Internet, and access will be protected via an assigned user name and password. Registered companies may access the database anytime to update company information, as well as access the latest procurement notifications.
4. The Secretariat will make a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation of the VRS for the benefit of WIPO Member States on June 26 2007, at 1.15 p.m. in Room B. Additional documentation concerning the VRS will also be distributed during the presentation.
5. All delegations are cordially invited to the presentation.

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