

the NAHRO e-Procurement system NEWS

May/June 2007

Volume 4, Issue 3

Transpire Unveils New e-Procurement DVD

In 2006, Transpire developed and distributed a cd-rom to help agencies and vendors get started on the system.

As a result of its success, Transpire enhanced the disc and unveiled it at the Organization for the Advancement of Technology in Housing Authorities (OATHA) conference in May.

The enhancements include a move to an easier to navigate format, updated resource materials and new information.

The DVD will be available at a number of upcoming conferences, and is also available by mail upon request—just email droberts@nahro.org to ask for



your copy to be sent to you.

Upcoming Conferences

- * SERC NAHRO—June
- * NAHRO Summer Conference—July
- * Mississippi NAHRO (MAHRO)—August
- * Carolinas Council—August

Inside this issue:

Vendor Spotlight	2
Be 1000th Listserv Subscriber	2
Agency Spotlight	3
Customer Support Information	4
Upcoming Training	4

THE STATS:

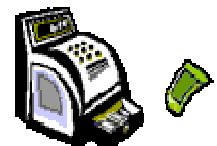
2007

Bids Published: 183

Bids Awarded: 107

Value of Bids Awarded

\$2,351,809.03



Vendors—Online Guide Update!

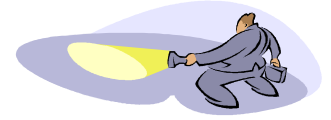
In March of this year, Transpire launched an online guide that highlights e-Procurement vendors at the Platinum and Gold levels. This site is available for viewing by all users of the e-Procurement system as well as the general NAHRO membership from a link on the e-Procurement homepage.

This guide will next be updated in June, and we encourage all Platinum and Gold vendors to send their information to Larry Hancock no later than June 8th at lhancock@economicengine.com.

Visit the site at <http://www.transpire.org/OnlineGuideAlpha.html>

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

Emphasys Software



While today there are more than 250 software providers on the e-Procurement system, that was not always the case.

When Emphasys Software joined e-Procurement in 2003, they were one of the very first to come onto the system. Over the years they have continued to use the system, and to work with NAHRO agency members to meet their software needs.

Emphasys Software recently released **Partner Portal**, a web-based solution that provides landlords, applicants and housing staff with a comprehensive look at the authority's rental housing stock. It allows landlords



to check the status of their inspections; applicants to check availability of rental properties; and housing staff to closely monitor its rental housing stock. The portal also provides information on upcoming recertifications and HAP registers by resident and allows landlords to upload potential rental units into the system. No mounds of printing. No long outdated lists. No visits to the

housing office. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We appreciate the ongoing support of Emphasys, and encourage our agency members to use the e-Procurement system when procuring software systems and ser-

vices.

For more information about Emphasys, contact them at (800) 968-6884 or visit them online at <http://www.emphasys-software.com/>.

Got an idea for an enhancement to the system?

Tell us about it by emailing droberts@nahro.org

Be the 1000th Listserv Subscriber and WIN!

Transpire has continued to grow the listserv during 2007, and we are approaching the 1000 member mark.

We want to encourage those of you not already signed up to do so. The 1000th subscriber will win a **\$100** cash prize, and will be highlighted in the newsletter that comes out right after their win. Both agency users and vendors are eligible, and we encourage you to take a moment and follow



the steps at the end of this article if you are not already on the listserv. If you are already on, pass this on to your coworkers and colleagues.

We are expanding the information we provide through

the listserv, and we want all our users to be tuned in.

To Subscribe:

1. go to <http://www.nahro.org/members/connects/subscribe.cfm> (you must be a NAHRO member to log on)
2. Scroll down to the bottom, and under Other Lists, select e-Procurement
3. Provide your email address and name, and click on subscribe.

That's it—You're Subscribed!

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

A Trip Across the Country



Over the years, many agencies have expressed the thought that the system was wonderful, but was not right for their agency. They said they were too small, too big, in the wrong part of the country, too rural, too urban, and so on.

This month, we have decided to address this misconception by highlighting three agencies from across the country—Walla Walla (WA); Indianapolis (IN) and Tifton (GA).

Walla Walla

The Walla Walla (WA) Housing Authority joined the system in early 2003. Designated as a small agency, the WWAHA has 84 public housing units. Yet according to Frank Ramirez, the Director of Housing Management, the system has met their needs. Frank says that he has “been utilizing NAHRO's e-procurement system since 2004 to assist with our Capital Fund Projects and found it to be user friendly and an efficient tool. It takes all the hassle away of soliciting vendors; it assures procurement compliance and so much more. I would highly recommend the e-procurement system to any organization that wants to streamline their procurement policies and processes.”

Indianapolis

The Indianapolis Housing Agency

is a relative newcomer to the system, having joined this year. Yet with more than 1800 public housing units, they too were looking for cost savings. Don Bievenour, their Materials and Contracts Manager, says that “In a time where every dollar counts, the NAHRO e-procurement system gets PHA contracting needs in front of a wide and diverse market, with little or no delay. The

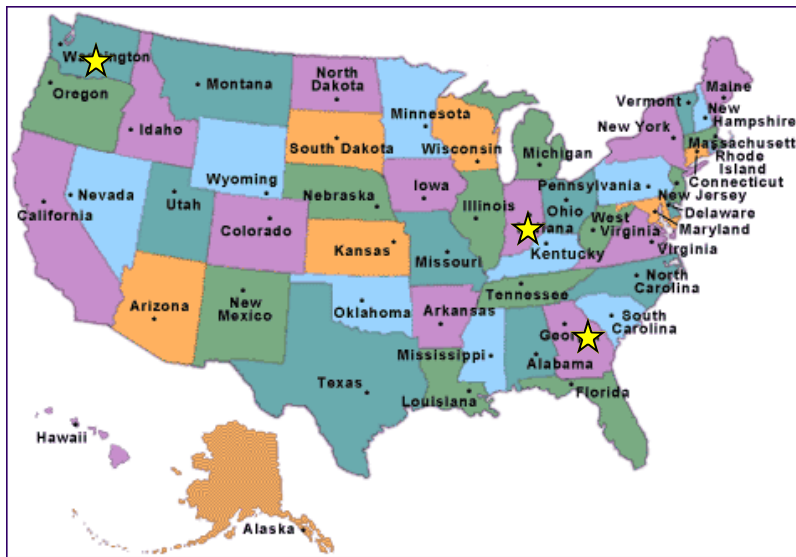
are always more tasks to be accomplished and less time to accomplish it. When I settle in at the end of the day to accomplish procurement tasks I don't have several catalogs spread on my desk anymore, I have several windows opened on my computer screen to do my comparison shopping. I used to dread having to put together a request for bids package, having to shuffle papers left and

right and going through several iterations before having all my paperwork in one place. Along came e-Procurement and now I actually look forward to putting stuff out for bid. Not only do I get to put together a package all in one place but I joy in the thought that I am also accomplishing so many other things at the same time effortlessly. Such as distribution, federal procurement

requirements and the thing that thrills me the most is my participation in the paperless effort. What used to take me several sessions and days to do I now did-er-done in one sit-down.”

Each of these three agencies represents the users of the e-Procurement system. They are diverse in geography, size and needs, but they all use the system for the same reasons—it saves them time and money.

Our thanks to Frank, Don and Efrain for sharing their stories with us.



customer support far surpasses any other support I have experienced. Larry Hancock is customer service.”

Tifton

The Tifton (GA) Housing Authority has been on e-Procurement since 2006, and with more than 350 public housing units is just as focused on saving time and money as the other two agencies profiled. Efrain Aquino is the Facilities Manager at THA, and he provided us with the following quote: “In today's fast-paced, highly computerized society there

May/June 2007 Issue

For general information, contact:
Dionne Roberts, Chief Executive Officer
Transpire, Inc.
630 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-580-6262 or droberts@nahro.org

Transpire, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NAHRO

Our Purpose

To add value to communities through service to NAHRO members by developing and sustaining appropriate business lines of benefit to NAHRO members.

We will develop new tools and approaches to unresolved challenges, and meet the needs within the affordable housing and community development industry.

We will identify and promote partnerships across sectors that can assist communities in meeting their goals, and in doing so recommit to serving the members of NAHRO, first and foremost.



CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Customer support is available at no charge by calling toll free, 866-526-9266, from 8 a.m. Eastern to 5 p.m. Pacific. We can assist you with putting up bids, RFPs, contacting vendors and any other software questions.

Got Ideas?

The e-Procurement News is distributed bi-monthly by Transpire, Inc.

If you have information or ideas, send them to droberts@nahro.org

NEED *PROCUREMENT* TRAINING?

NAHRO's Procurement & Contract Management Seminar

Procurement's more than placing orders or processing requisitions. It's a major operation in any housing authority – a management-driven cost control center that requires constant attention and education. Your agency will benefit from this session whether it's a one-person, one-desk operation or a sprawling enterprise.

none currently scheduled

NAHRO's Advanced Procurement Seminar

Are you ready to take your procurement process to the next level? With budgets tightening because of dwindling resources, we hear more and more, do less with more. This course, designed for procurement professionals, goes beyond the basics and focuses on how to increase effectiveness and efficiency in your procurement operations.

June 25-26, 2007
Cincinnati, OH

For more information go to: <http://www.nahro.org/professional/seminars.cfm>