

Feb. 8, 2012

Media contact: Larry Allen, Communications, 941-650-2092; lwallen@scgov.net

Project Contact: Kate Wood, 941-861-5119; kwood@scgov.net

Sarasota County launches online vendor registration system

Vendors who want to do business with Sarasota County will be able to use a new, simplified online procurement system beginning in March. The eProcure system will replace the current online service with a free, single website for Sarasota County solicitations, policies, procedures and forms.

Vendors who register with eProcure will be automatically notified when bids are issued that potentially match their qualifications. A major advantage to the new system is that vendors may claim local preference when they register instead of completing stringent preference guidelines each time they submit a solicitation.

The shift to an online system was announced last April, but was delayed while improvements were made to the county's procurement program. The new system will eliminate internal redundancies, improve reporting capabilities for vendor contracts, and substantially reduce Sarasota County's environmental footprint by saving vendors the cost of preparing and printing submittal materials.

eProcure registration will take place during March and April, and vendors must register to do business with Sarasota County. Vendors may continue to register after April, but they will not be notified about bids until they complete registration.

The county procurement department expects to begin posting solicitations in May. The new site eventually may allow electronic solicitation submittals, which would further streamline the review and award process and reduce project delays from errors or omissions in manual submissions.

A series of educational workshops to assist vendors with registration will be announced soon.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about eProcure.

-end-