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County Offers Convenient Online Vendor Registration

Snohomish County has made it easier to do business with Snohomish County.

Vendors seeking to register with Snohomish County's Purchasing Division now have a more streamlined method to do so with the implementation this week of an internet application that offers online self-registration.

"The new system is user-friendly, faster, and conveniently allows vendors to keep their information current," said Dave Gibson, the county's purchasing manager. Interested businesses can now create their own registration account, indicate the commodities and services offered, and update their account information at any time. "This is an effective tool to help us identify potential suppliers for the broad range of purchasing needs," said Gibson. The web-based application was developed by the County's Department of Information Services.

County Executive Aaron Reardon cited the on-line registration as the latest example of why Snohomish County was recently named one of the top-ten Digital County governments in the United States by the Center for Digital Government.

"Snohomish County will soon be introducing even more ways for citizens to get information and do business online," Reardon said. "We have some very innovative people in our Department of Information Services. I see a time when almost all the services offered by the county will be available to citizens and businesses from the Internet."

The county typically seeks about 250 bids annually for a wide range of products and services, including office supplies, construction projects, uniforms, printing services, technology products, and professional and technical services.

Previously, vendors would fill out an application and either mail or e-mail the completed form back. County staff would then enter the information into a vendor reference database. Also, keeping the list of active vendors up to date had always been a challenge. Now, when a company has not accessed their vendor account for one year, the system will automatically send an e-mail inquiring if the company is still in business and if they wish to remain on the vendor listing.

“We’re very pleased to offer this automated convenience to our current and future business partners,” said Gibson, “and I want to thank my county coworkers for their hard work in making this on-line capability possible.

The County’s internet vendor’s guide (*Doing Business with Snohomish County Government*) can be accessed at www.co.snohomish.wa.us – and search for “doing business.”

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