To: Current Statewide Contract Suppliers  
Cc: Strategic Sourcing Services Leads  
From: Gary Lambert, Assistant Secretary for Operational Services  
Date: November 4, 2013  
RE: The Commonwealth’s New Procurement System COMMBUYs

The COMMBUYs countdown is on! The Operational Services Division is pleased to announce that the Commonwealth will be launching a new Electronic Procurement system that will modernize the way the state procures goods and services. We believe that by automating, integrating and simplifying the current procurement process, COMMBUYs will offer suppliers an efficient, cost-effective and fully electronic procure-to-pay solution. For suppliers, this means increased visibility to a larger multi-government customer base, a single location for all solicitations, simplified customer ordering via eCatalogs and automated notifications of open solicitations. The system also supports a more efficient payment process as well as the opportunity for more online collaboration between buyers and suppliers. The first phase of COMMBUYs will be implemented in March 2014, when COMMBUYs will replace Comm-PASS for all solicitation and purchasing activities, and this introduction of catalog ordering.

We are developing a comprehensive outreach strategy to help you prepare for the March 2014 roll-out. COMMBUYs Outreach Coordinators will work closely with you to help you transition to COMMBUYs when it goes live in March. They will be available to walk you through the necessary readiness steps and answer any questions you may have throughout the process.

During the week of November 18th we will be hosting a number of kickoff webcasts to tell you more about the system, the project schedule, and the planned readiness program of communications, training and outreach to ensure you are prepared to use COMMBUYs when it is launched next March. Following the kickoff, Outreach Coordinators will be in touch directly to work with you on registration, catalog enablement and other important readiness activities.

Soon you will be receiving from us an invitation to a kickoff webcast. We encourage Vendor Contacts and others in your contracting office to attend the session to learn more about the new system. Thank you for your attention and we look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to email us at Commbuys@state.ma.us.