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PROCURING FOR YOU

Open

The e-procurement solution developed and managed by NEPO and the twelve North East Member Authorities.

analyse procure manage

WHAT IS OPEN?

Open is the one-stop-shop e-procurement solution that will replace all procurement systems and tools used by NEPO and the twelve North East Member Authorities.

Open will be designed and managed entirely on user needs and effective procurement data management, taking advantage of advanced and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Robotic Process Automation.

The twelve North East Member Authorities are:

Durham County Council
Darlington Borough Council
Gateshead Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Middlesbrough moving forward
Newcastle City Council
North Tyneside Council
Northumberland County Council
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
South Tyneside Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Sunderland City Council

Open will automate the end-to-end procurement lifecycle, and Open's cloud technology will ensure total flexibility, scalability and portability.

Nicola Shelley
Managing Director at NEPO

WHAT WILL OPEN DO?

The listed procurement functions will be automated and managed by Open.

It's important to note that NEPO has not designed Open to be modular, but rather all-encompassing and seamless. Each procurement function will be intrinsically linked to the other to ensure efficiencies at every step and a golden thread of data without any break in the chain.

Function	Activities
Pre-Procurement	strategy development, market research, market engagement, stakeholder engagement
Procurement	scoping, tender development, publication, evaluation, award
Contract Management	engagement, performance monitoring, risk management, rebate management, social value, continuous improvement
Supplier Registration	sign-up, profile building, database, engagement, tendering
Data Analytics	collection, cleansing, enriching, dashboard, visualisation

WHAT ISSUES WILL OPEN ADDRESS?

NEPO and the NEPO Member Authorities' core objective is to improve operations for public sector buyers and suppliers, by developing a future-proofed solution, with full control of the management and development of that solution.

Examples of common issues that motivated this ambitious project:

- Need for more **intuitive interface** with supplier communities
- Ineffective or inaccessible **data**
- Lack of available external intelligence to ensure **fully informed decision-making**
- Disproportionate use of time and effort without **full automation**
- Recognition of opportunities for **greater efficiency** and removal of duplication

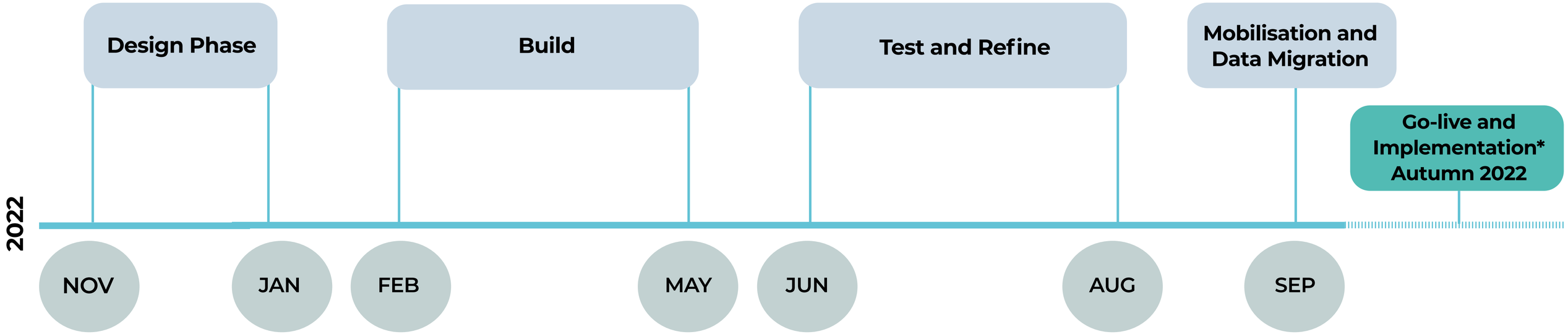
WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF OPEN?

NEPO and NEPO Member Authorities want to achieve the following through the development of Open:

01	Develop an entirely **fit for purpose and future-proof** e-procurement solution capable of delivering against rapidly changing technologies and innovations
02	Create a vehicle for positive **operational and behavioural change** through efficiencies and automation
03	Create a seamless and intuitive solution to interface with supply chains and **minimise administrative burden** of tendering for public sector opportunities
04	Maintain an ethos of '**by the public sector, for the public sector**' by ensuring full control, management and continuous development by NEPO and NEPO Member Authorities

WHEN WILL OPEN BE READY?

Dates are indicative and subject to change



*Please note that it is anticipated that implementation across NEPO and NEPO Member Authorities will be phased following the Go-live date. Regular communication will be provided in the interim to ensure all stakeholders are fully aware of the changes and any action required of them in preparation.

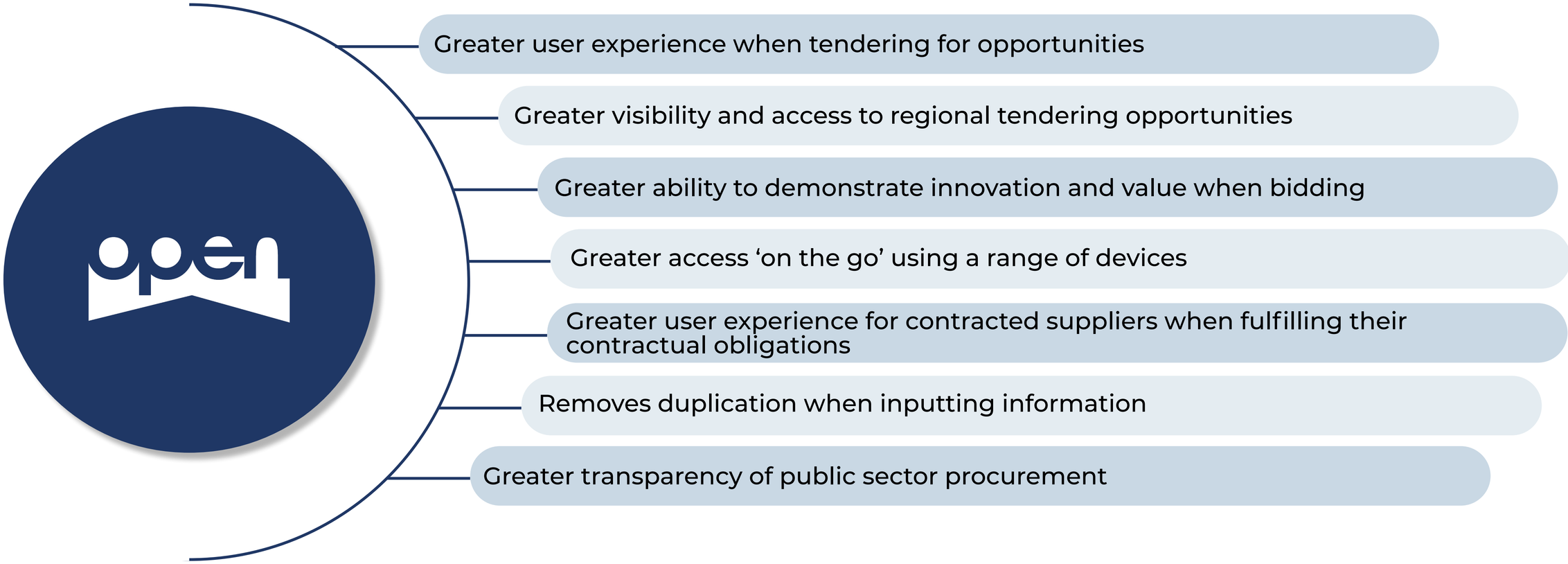
SUPPLIERS

What this means to suppliers

If you are a supplier currently supplying NEPO and/or NEPO Member Authorities, the intention is to migrate your data to Open during the deployment phase.

Profiles will be linked to Companies House, and other relevant public data sources, under Open, with any duplicate accounts minimised for suppliers to manage accordingly.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO SUPPLIERS?



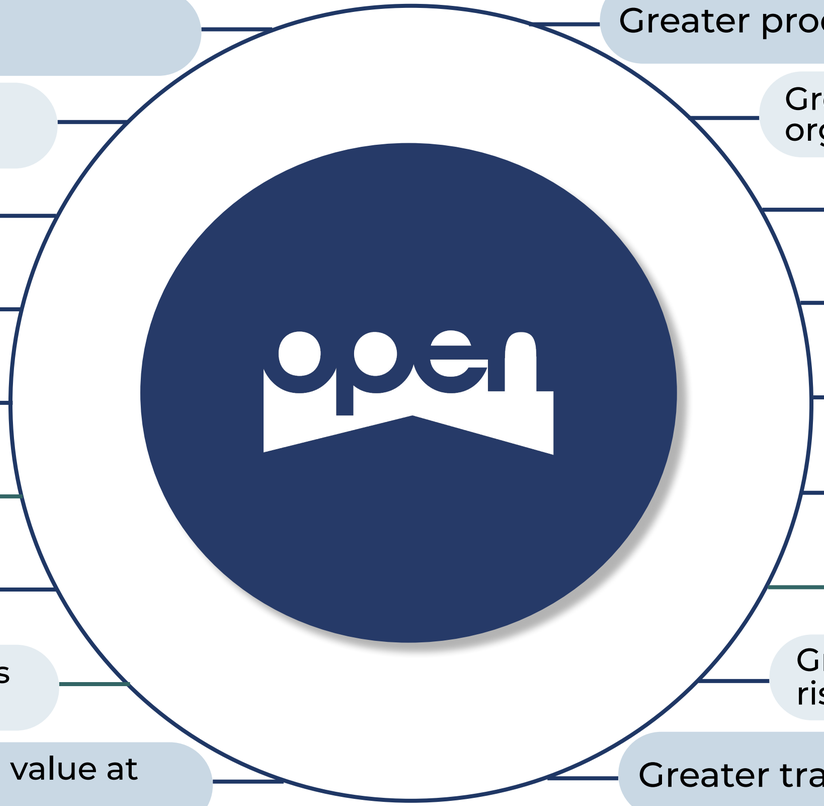
BUYERS

What this means to buyers

If you are a public sector procurement professional as part of the twelve North East Member Authorities, your data will be migrated to Open and you will receive access and login information. We will then be rolling out the programme to the wider public sector buyer community.

Training and support will be provided by NEPO and your respective organisation to ensure that you are able to use Open prior to going live. Any ongoing procurement activity at the point of going live will continue under the existing systems with any new activity performed under Open.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO BUYERS?



- Greater interoperability
- Greater focus on areas of strategic importance
- Greater efficiency for workflow management and workforce planning
- Greater portability via access on tablet devices
- Greater collaboration with stakeholders
- Greater opportunities to share best practice and tackle common problems
- Eradication of inefficient operations and duplications
- Greater ability to continuously improve operations through flexible and scalable cloud technology
- Greater opportunities to embed social value at the core of procurement
- Greater productivity
- Greater access to, and management of, organisational and external data
- Greater visibility and access to supply chains
- Greater business intelligence for strategy development and decision-making
- Greater ability to innovate
- Greater acccess to data analytics
- Greater security and fraud prevention
- Greater visibility of risks and improved risk management
- Greater transparency

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