



Implementation of electronic authentication at Bundesbeschaffung GmbH (BBG) in Austria



Public Procurement Principle: **E-procurement**



Procurement Stage: **Pre-tendering**



Audience: **Policy maker, Procuring entity, Private sector**

Description

A key tenet of the Austrian e-procurement system is the ability of users to submit offers (and contracting authorities to accept offers) digitally. Austrian procurement law provides the electronically qualified signature and gives it equal importance to a manual signature.

In order to be able to sign an electronic document in a legally binding manner (e.g. an offer), the signatory requires a qualified certificate. To obtain a certificate, suppliers must meet several formal requirements in Austria. To ensure the security of the certificate, the agency providing certification contacts the supplier to provide them with secret information that is required to activate their signature.

To sign a document, the signatory requires a mobile phone or a signature card and appropriate software, which may be obtained online. The process is similar to the mobile transaction authentication number (TAN) procedure, which is widely used in e-banking.

Source: OECD (2019), [Public Procurement in Germany: Strategic Dimensions for Well-being and Growth](#), OECD Public Governance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris

