

## INFORMATION ON THE NATIONWIDE E-INVOICING INITIATIVE

### **1 OVERVIEW**

- 1.1 Electronic invoicing or E-invoicing is the automated creation, exchange and processing of B2B/B2G payment requests between suppliers and buyers using a structured digital format.
- 1.2 Businesses will be able to improve efficiency, reduce costs, get paid faster, transact cross border and have access to new financial options. In turn, there are significant productivity savings for Singapore at the national level.

### **2 SINGAPORE'S E-INVOICING NETWORK IS NOW LIVE**

- 2.1 Following an evaluation of e-invoicing standards, Singapore implemented the Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line (PEPPOL) e-invoicing standard, making IMDA the first National PEPPOL authority outside of Europe, and the first National Authority in Asia, to adopt the standard. IMDA and OpenPEPPOL signed a letter of appointment in May 2018 to formalise IMDA as the National PEPPOL Authority in Singapore.
- 2.2 Singapore's network was launched on 9 January 2019. Technology solution/service providers are now able to join the network and bring on-board their corporate customers.
- 2.3 In order to scale up the adoption, IMDA will be working with accounting software providers to bring their ready pool of partners onto the network and will be making e-invoicing a requirement under the pre-approved solutions.

### **3 THE ADVANTAGES OF CHOOSING PEPPOL**

- 3.1 The following are the key characteristics of PEPPOL:
  - An open standard intended to bridge interoperability across competing business solutions;
  - Tried and tested standard, handling millions of transactions across Europe;
  - Clear technical and legal frameworks at national and international levels;

- The capability to “connect once, connect to all” – the ability to deal with any other business on the network seamlessly; and
  - A single and standardised means of issuing and receiving e-invoices with others on the PEPPOL network
- 3.2 The PEPPOL standard is maintained by OpenPEPPOL, a non-profit international association. It was conceived in the European Union in 2008, with OpenPEPPOL established in 2012. It has 311 members from 32 countries, with 209 Access Points<sup>1</sup> in 26 countries in Europe, North America and Asia, that serve to connect over 150,000 entities. PEPPOL conducted over 90 million transactions between the Access Points in 2018.
- 3.3 There are eleven other PEPPOL Authorities in Europe, mostly run by their respective public sectors. They are: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, OpenPEPPOL AISBL, Poland, Sweden and the UK.
- 3.4 As Singapore’s PEPPOL Authority, IMDA sets the national rules and specifications that meet Singapore’s domestic requirements. It has appointed Singapore Network Information Centre (SGNIC) Pte Ltd as the Service Metadata Publisher<sup>2</sup> and has certified more than ten PEPPOL Access Point (AP) providers to date. IMDA will also ensure their conformance to the PEPPOL technical and service standards.

## 4 HOW PEPPOL E-INVOICING WORKS

- 4.1 Companies who wish to adopt e-invoicing must subscribe to an AP Provider of their choice. Companies then send their e-invoices to their AP Provider, which checks and verifies the receiving company’s PEPPOL address through the SMP (address book). The AP Provider then sends the document to the relevant receiving AP Provider, and then onward to the receiving party.

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<sup>1</sup> Access Points are the nodes which companies route their documents through. Each AP is run by its own provider.

<sup>2</sup> Service metadata publishers are akin to localised address books for PEPPOL’s network. OpenPEPPOL maintains a master list.

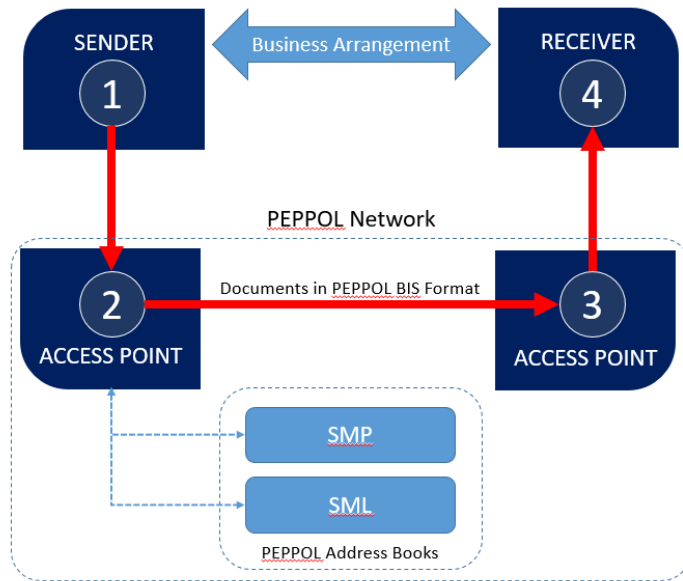


Figure 1: Sending an e-invoice on the PEPPOL network