

## **ETN is awarded EC funding to improve compliance and visibility in the supply chain**

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The ETN Alliance has concluded a contract with the European Commission under the auspices of the very competitive eTEN programme for the Europe wide launch of the ETN business. The Alliance is set for an 18-month project to complete the final steps of the trans-European evaluation and deployment of its customs and compliance services. This co-funding support is an endorsement of ETN's efforts and proven success for offering a Customs-related services portfolio for the European trade community.

### **eTEN programme**

The eTEN programme is designed to help the deployment of telecommunication networks based services (e-services) with a trans-European dimension. It focuses strongly on services of public interest, particularly in areas where Europe has a competitive advantage, with the final goal of making e-services available throughout the European Union.

The programme is managed by the Information Society Directorate General which pursues to stimulate e-services to help make Europe more competitive, and to improve people's quality of life. In this sense, the European Commission acknowledges ETN's achievements and potential for developing cross-border services that will foster the e-economy.

ETN had to compete with many other project proposals from all European countries, being evaluated by independent expert panels that revised its service proposition, community value, trans-European focus and business sustainability.

### **ETN works**

During the period of the project, the ETN partners will further fine-tune the services of the Alliance to shape a common access point ensuring community trade compliance within a sustainable business enterprise.

From the success of its Message Service Portfolio -a subscription based service that enables messages generated by the Customs administrations to be shared by all trading partners in the supply chain-, ETN enters functionality for Customs electronic procedures in different European countries that could be accessed by customers in any place.

From a technology perspective the ETN backbone is based on an XML-based format and protocols set created by ETN technical group, this schema is referred to as UIDS. This backbone allows customers access a suite of intelligent mapping and conversion protocols to give single access to in excess of 12 Customs Authorities.

UIDS is also a central piece for corporate systems integration with Customs electronic transactions, enabling a smooth operation from within company systems. Connecting to ETN trans-European services allows a global company to access different European countries Customs administrations from within its own corporate systems.

Find more about ETN at [www.eurtradenet.com](http://www.eurtradenet.com)