

You have questions about PROZEUS? We will be pleased to answer you.

What does PROZEUS stand for?

PROZEUS stands for the promotion of the eBusiness competence of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in order to enable them to participate in global markets for purchasing and sales with integrated processes and standards.

Who is PROZEUS?

PROZEUS is a joint project carried out by GS1 Germany and IW Consult on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Commerce and Technology (BMWi). It was launched in 2002.

Why does the German Federal Ministry of Commerce and Technology (BMWi) support this project?

The German government's initiative for small and medium-sized enterprises aims to introduce new information and communication technologies to SMEs and to support the use of standards within these new technologies. For this reason PROZEUS was included as an important project in the German government's agenda "ID 2010 – Germany: the information society."

Who is PROZEUS aimed at?

PROZEUS's target group is SMEs (up to 500 employees) from the manufacturing, consumer goods and trading sectors. These are companies which are focusing on strengthening their national and international market positions and are therefore keen to be informed about the purpose, costs and benefits of eBusiness and to be guided and, where necessary, supported as they take the first steps.

How can you benefit from PROZEUS?

PROZEUS can provide you with free information about eBusiness and eBusiness standards in the form of brochures, checklists and guidelines. In addition, you can:

Take advantage of the eBusiness experience of approximately 60 SMEs and compare notes with them.

Choose your preferred IT consultant from the PROZEUS IT Consultant Pool or use one of the consulting services offered by PROZEUS and its partners.

Attend one of the many events and workshops organised by PROZEUS and learn not only about the opportunities and benefits but also the risks associated with eBusiness.

How can you obtain subsidies through PROZEUS?

PROZEUS supports SMEs from the manufacturing, consumer goods and trading sectors which want to implement eBusiness standards and share their experiences with PROZEUS.

Their experiences are described in brochures, presentations and on the internet in order to help other companies. Participating companies take part in PROZEUS events, where they give account of their experiences with eBusiness.

New companies to be supported by PROZEUS are selected according to set criteria. The basic conditions are that companies must have fewer than 250 employees, have a maximum annual turnover of € 50 million and be independent companies, not subsidiaries of a group.

Simply keep an eye on our website www.prozeus.de or register with our newsletter in order to take part in the next selection process.

What are eBusiness-standards and why are they important for SMEs?

Digital business processes have a number of advantages – even for SMEs: eBusiness applications reduce costs and open new channels for sales and procurement. This is because companies can exchange large quantities of information on such things as product details and transport routes. In order to be able to understand this type of electronic business information both sides have to "speak the same language". This is where eBusiness standards come in. They define the data format and establish the rules for the exchange of information. These standards form the basis for numerous electronic business processes, such as ordering, delivery and billing. SMEs can take advantage of the opportunities offered by eBusiness by deciding for these recognised standards when implementing their new solution. eBusiness standards form the basis for quick, automated and efficient processes in companies.

How much do PROZEUS's products and services cost?

The information offered by PROZEUS is free of charge and all PROZEUS publications can be downloaded via the internet. Both searching and registration in the IT Consultant Pool are also free of charge. For some events and publications PROZEUS makes a modest charge. The one-day introductory consultation offered by GS1 Germany comes at a reduced fee of € 200 (you save € 1,200). The introductory consultation by PROZEUS's co-operation partner *Netzwerk Elektronischer Geschäftsverkehr* is free of charge.

Does PROZEUS sell software?

No, PROZEUS does not sell software. PROZEUS is a neutral source of assistance, information and advice and does not recommend any software, hardware, providers or IT consultants. PROZEUS provides a platform where you can search free-of-charge for IT product suppliers and consultants.

How does PROZEUS gather its information?

PROZEUS gathers its information from different sources. On the one hand, companies supported by PROZEUS publish both their positive and negative experiences in feedback reports. On the other hand, PROZEUS benefits from the expertise of a network of specialists who are familiar with the latest trends in eBusiness standards and can provide a clear overview of this rapidly changing field.

The network of IT service providers operates in the market and is well-informed about trends in the IT sector. The network is currently developing a seal of approval to assure high quality in IT services. It also supports the deployment of eBusiness standards in small and medium-sized enterprises.

The employers', trade and industrial associations' network of multipliers is currently expanding its information and advisory services for their members to include eBusiness and eBusiness standards. As a result, SMEs will have an additional source of assistance.

What consultancy services does PROZEUS offer?

Although PROZEUS itself is not a consultancy, its co-operation partners offer two forms of advice:
1) The one-day introductory consultation offered by GS1 is aimed at SMEs in the consumer goods and trading sectors. For a reduced fee of € 200 (a saving of € 1200) GS1 advises SMEs in the fields of EDI, EANCOM and RFID.

2) The introductory consultation offered by PROZEUS's co-operation partner *Netzwerk Elektronischer Geschäftsverkehr* is aimed at SMEs in both manufacturing industry and the trades. The *Netzwerk Elektronischer Geschäftsverkehr*, or 'eBusiness Network', consists of 25 knowledge centers located throughout Germany. This free introductory consultation is designed for companies wanting to take their first steps in eBusiness.

