



The eb-forms were developed by GS1 Netherlands in response to the need expressed by the wholesale companies from the Dutch construction sector.

These wholesalers have business relationship with a number of small suppliers and lot of small (building) contractors. These small companies (most of the time one person companies) have no IT resources and do not use ERP systems that can translate the received XML messages. To do the electronic business with their trading partners they needed a simple tool, able to display the content of the received XML-messages in a human readable form.

GS1 Netherlands offered as a solution simple stylesheets converting XML messages into electronic forms. They allow to send XML messages as an email attachment, and open the attachment in a web browser, using the tool provided by GS1 Netherlands.

## Goals and Objectives

The objective was to develop a simple tool for these smaller companies, so that they can start doing electronic business with their trading partners. The tool had to be able to display the content of the received XML-messages in a human readable way.

## Partners involved

- At the request of the Dutch 'S@les in Construction' foundation GS1 developed these eb-forms.
- CRH Building Materials, The Netherlands Headquartered in Dublin, Ireland <http://www.crh.com/>



## Description of the application

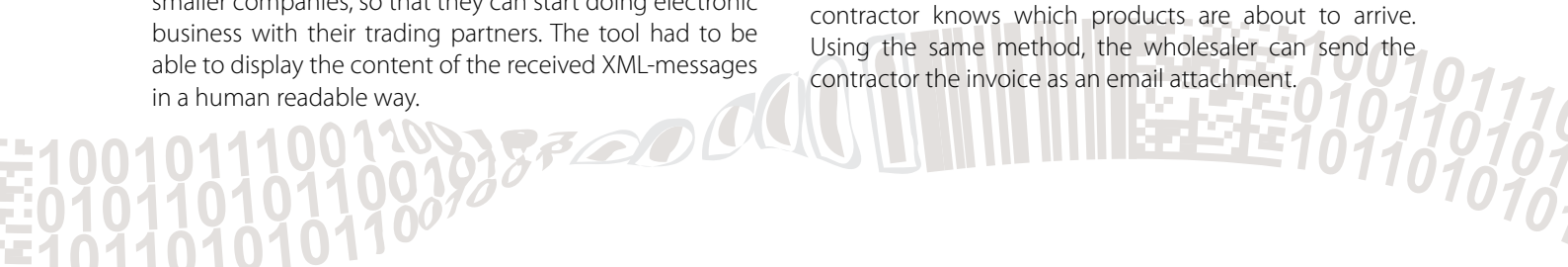
The eb-forms cover two process areas:

### 1. Wholesaler > Supplier

Using the style sheets from GS1 Netherlands, the wholesaler can send an XML Order message to the small supplier as an email attachment. The supplier receives the email and opens the attachment with the tool provided by GS1 Netherlands, transforming the XML message into HTML and displaying it in the web browser.

### 2. Wholesaler > Contractor

The wholesaler can send an XML Despatch Advice and Invoice to the small contractor located all day long at the building site. With the help of (wi-fi) internet access at the building site, the contractor can receive the Despatch Advice attached to an e-mail, open the attachment and read the despatch information displayed by the web browser in HTML format. Located at the building site the contractor knows which products are about to arrive. Using the same method, the wholesaler can send the contractor the invoice as an email attachment.



## GS1 eCom Standards used

The solution is based on standard GS1 XML messages with GS1 Netherlands extensions, based on the Dutch Implementation Guidelines. The messages used are:

- Multi Shipment Order
- Despatch Advice
- Invoice

In these messages, the GS1 identification keys are used: GTIN to identify products and GLN to identify parties and locations.

## Benefits and Results

The project proves that small companies can also implement the GS1 XML messages, even though they do not have an integrated ERP system. With the help of a simple tool, they can send invoices electronically and save costs within the financial process.



## What's next?

The eb-forms will be in pilot as of the end of January 2009. The next steps of GS1 Netherlands on these eb-forms within the construction industry depend on the results of the pilot.

GS1 Netherlands will make the eb-forms also available for the other sectors. Thus, they need to be adjusted to the specific guidelines of the different sectors – GS1 Netherlands creates eCom implementation guidelines per sector.

## About GS1 eCom Standards

GS1 eCom provides global standards for electronic business messaging that allow rapid, efficient and accurate automatic electronic transmission of agreed business data between trading partners.

eCom is a GS1 term used for the Electronic Data Interchange technology, which can be defined as “the transfer of structured data, by agreed message standards, from one computer application to another, by electronic means and with a minimum of human intervention”.

GS1 eCom provides two complementary standards for business messaging:

- **GS1 XML**, more info on the following link <http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/ecom/xml/>
- **GS1 EANCOM®**, more info on the following link <http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/ecom/eancode/>



## Contact information

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With special thanks to:



Netherlands

