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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Institution Joins The Ranks Of e-Local Marketplace B2B Buyers Calling All Corporations and Institutions to Support Chicagoland Small Businesses

Chicago, IL February 28, 2023 – e-Local Marketplace (“ELM”), is the “go to” marketplace for corporations and institutions seeking to dedicate a portion of annual spending among Chicagoland small businesses.

“Evanston/Skokie School District #65 made the announcement to their end users; and they can start buying now.” stated Cy Kennedy, CEO of Value Innovation Technologies, the tech company that powers e-Local Marketplace. “The City of Evanston has also executed their commitment to join as an ELM Buyer. We anticipate their rollout of e-Local Marketplace to all City of Evanston departments in the very near future.” shared Clarence Weaver, ELM President. These institutions are among a growing number of ELM Buyers, Northwestern University was the first to sign in Evanston.

Hotels, medical, university procurement officers and corporate leaders wanting to make a difference in the communities in which they are located; among the people, patients and students they serve, would be remiss to not at least consider e-Local Marketplace. “According to Q4 ‘22 data, the city of Chicago alone serves as the headquarters to 35 Fortune 500 companies. It is also the location of a couple of the US News & World Report's '50 Best Hotels' List for 2023, some of the most tremendous higher institutions of learning, greatest hospitals, and home to McCormick Place, the largest exhibition center in North America.” stated Anita Summers, ELM Executive Director. She continued “e-Local Marketplace is excited to present authentic local options for the procurement needs of all of these entities.” e-Local Marketplace (“ELM”), provides a direct solution to corporate and institutional buyers’ DEI initiatives and other entities committed to supporting local, women, minority, and veteran-owned businesses throughout the 9,581 square mile Chicagoland area.

e-Local Marketplace Buyers have ongoing opportunities to advise ELM regarding the products they seek to purchase, customize [their] buyer catalogues, and have access to over 100 additional data points on B2B metrics. System integration is offered; however, it is not a requirement. Currently, buyers can select from over 100k products including unique coffees, food service, Maintenance Repair Operations (MRO), office supplies, graphic design, digital marketing, printing, artificial intelligence (AI), cyber security, and commercial interior design and overhead doors.

Corporate and institutional decision makers are invited to express interest or questions via email to asummers@e-localmarketplace.org or call (224) 357-1107 to schedule a meeting and/or system demonstration. Small business owners may email questions or register to become an e-Local Marketplace vendor at: <https://evanstonlocalmarketplace.elinkgateway.com/administration/vendorRegform/vendorregpage.xhtml>. ELM is powered by eLink Gateway™, a proprietary software of Value Innovation Technologies.

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