

The Way Forward

News



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Ontario Region teaches the basics

Ontario Region's Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) is offering procurement seminars to suppliers, teaching them the basics of doing business with the Government of Canada. Since January 2007, approximately 45 SME representatives have participated in three information sessions. Sessions on Writing Effective Proposals and Professional Services Online will be available on a weekly basis in Toronto from April 2007 onwards. Additional sessions, organized by Small Business Enterprise Centres, will also be taking place in local communities across Ontario.

Ontario Region is collaborating with OSME to make these sessions a success. For example, staff from the Acquisitions Branch deliver the sessions on behalf of OSME or participate as subject matter specialists for sessions outside of the Greater Toronto Area. OSME also invites representatives from the provincial government and MERX to make presentations at some supplier seminars. This allows SMEs to learn about various governmental opportunities available to them in one sitting.

For more information, please contact Simone Holder by calling 416-512-5577



Lessons learned from client departments' initiatives

PWGSC is working closely with client departments to share knowledge of best practices on procurement improvements. For instance, Service Canada has implemented a purchasing portal, which imbeds procurement business rules according to commodity. The portal is an efficient way to procure items such as office supplies while ensuring best prices and compliance to policies (e.g. Mandatory Commodity requirement).

Other benefits of the Portal include:

- One stop, Canada-wide shopping 24/7
- Convenience and savings through standardized, streamlined national processes

- Increased client satisfaction
- Greener operations
- Increased ability for oversight, monitoring and reporting
- Improved communication

New buyers can consult Business Access Canada's Web site, www.contractsCanada.gc.ca/en/buyer-e.htm, for further information. The site includes links to key publications, information on changes to purchasing practices and procedures, and an electronic directory of suppliers who have registered to do business with the federal government.

Buying green reduces impact of procurement on environment

The Government is working to accelerate the greening of its operations and contribute to the sustainable development agenda. PWGSC's Policy on Green Procurement requires that departments integrate environmental performance considerations in all phases of procurement decision-making.

The Office of Greening Government Operations (OGGO) is also working closely with its colleague departments – Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada – to develop the tools to support this Policy. Here's how:

- Government-wide Green Procurement training course: Working with the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS), PWGSC is helping to create a free on-line course, which will be available in Spring 2007. In addition, OGGO continues to work with CSPS to incorporate green procurement modules into the Material Management/Procurement curriculums.
- Guideline for the Integration of Environmental Performance Considerations in Federal Government Procurement: This guideline explains how environmental considerations can be integrated into each stage of the procurement

process – from planning to buying, using and disposing of assets – and in day-to-day decisions.

- Green Procurement Decision Making Tool: This Web-based tool is designed to help departments and agencies set their own green procurement targets.
- Implementing the Policy on Green Procurement: A series of interdepartmental workshops provides information on the new Policy on Green Procurement. These workshops are also a forum for departments to discuss ways to implement the Policy, to learn about and understand the tools available to them, and to share best practices.
- Environmental Awareness Tool Kit: This on-line tool provides information and available resources on green procurement, as well as background information on environmental issues. It shows links between procurement decisions and environmental impacts and describes the practical aspects of green procurement.

To find out more information on the Green Procurement Policy and to access these resources, please visit: www.pwgsc.gc.ca/greening/



New Cyber Protection Supply Arrangement

PWGSC recently collaborated with the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) and the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) to offer a single Supply Arrangement for all your IT Security needs. The Cyber Protection Supply Arrangement (CPSA) allows you to procure Information Technology (IT) security services to achieve your IT security goals.

How can the CPSA help you?

The new Supply Arrangement responds to the requirements identified by an Interdepartmental Working Group, which included 15 GC departments, and meets the requirements of an interdepartmental Steering Committee, jointly chaired by CSE and TBS. The pre-qualified companies have met all evaluation

criteria and offer departments a choice of qualified IT professionals. These companies are available for IT security contracts through a streamlined procurement process.

"We are looking forward to using the CPSA for all of our IT Security requirements. Having so many qualified companies available will give us the flexibility we need to find the right company or person to meet our needs," says Charles MacLennan, Chief Information Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

To find out how to use the CPSA, or to obtain a listing of the companies available, please visit the CSE web site at www.cse-cst.gc.ca/cpsa.

Building IT Shared Services

Several departments have begun to move the people, business processes and technology to the shared services model as part of the 1st wave of the IT Shared Services Initiative.

This past December marked the 1st anniversary of the initiative's 1st wave. Significant progress has been made by the Identification, Qualification, Transition and Transformation (IQTT) team. IQTT is the methodology being applied to help shift departmental IT services to a shared services organization under PWGSC's leadership.

PWGSC is leading the "whole-of-government" approach to modernizing Information Technology. This initiative, called IT Shared Services, is taking full advantage of information technology systems and creating increased sharing and better management of public sector IT, to ensure the government operates efficiently using common and integrated services wherever possible. IT Shared Services will provide a single point of access for IT infrastructure resources to government departments, helping to streamline processes and realize efficiencies.

To find out more, please visit PWGSC's Internet site:

<http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/transformation/text/reference/rs-6-e.html>



Smarter buying saves time and money

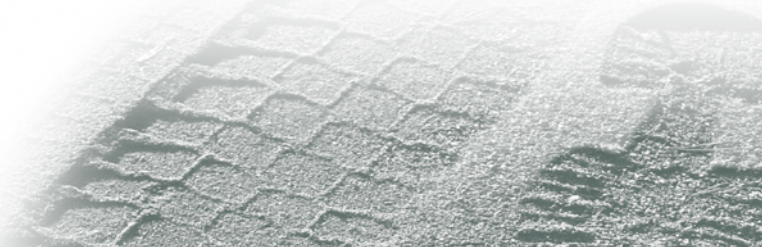
The Department of National Defence (DND) recently saved thousands on a consolidated purchase by grouping the requirements of several Brigades.

Working with PWGSC, DND combined the requirements of five Brigades for a consolidated buy of simulation technology. The team was able to negotiate a significant discount in rental rates and administrative costs, for a total savings of \$98,000.

This will also save time for the Brigades. Done separately, each rental contract would have taken up to 48 days to be put in place. Under the consolidated arrangement, the

Brigades can secure contracts in as little as 48 hours.

For more information on this initiative, contact Al Garlinski via email at Al.Garlinski@pwgsc.gc.ca or by phone at 204-983-6108.



Saving space means saving money

Over the past two years, PWGSC has been exploring opportunities to make our operations more efficient. In the real property business, this has been most visible by the rigorous application of space and fit-up standards.

As part of this initiative, Ontario Region recently relocated Compensation and Information Technology Services (C&ITS) staff from the Scarborough office into its Regional Headquarters. Employees previously occupied 1,120 usable square metres (um²) of space at a cost of \$280,000 annually. Under the new space guidelines, Ontario Region saved 320 um² through better allocation of space.

To demonstrate leadership and consistency with all federal departments, Ontario Region relocated these employees into offices at 4900 Yonge Street this past November. This relocation also respects the average utilization target for office space of 18.4 rentable square metres per FTE and will represent a savings of \$1.4 million over five years in rental costs.

To read more about *The Way Forward* space saving initiative and fit-up standards, visit the following site: http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/realproperty/text/pubs_fitup/intro/a1-1-e.html

Federal government seeking a Procurement Ombudsman

The Government of Canada is looking to fill the position of Procurement Ombudsman in keeping with its commitments under the *Federal Accountability Act* and Action Plan.

The Procurement Ombudsman will help ensure greater fairness, openness, and transparency in procurement across government.

The Ombudsman's work will focus on reviewing procurement practices across government, recommending improvements, reviewing complaints about the administration of contracts and complaints from suppliers

about certain categories of contracts, and ensuring that an alternative contract disputes resolution process is in place.

The Ombudsman will report to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and submit an annual report to the Minister for tabling in Parliament.

More details are available at the following web site:

<http://news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=278289>

The government will make an announcement when the Ombudsman is appointed.

The Way Forward News

The Way Forward News is published periodically to inform GC departments and agencies about the changes and progress being made to procurement and services provided by PWGSC. We encourage you to pass on this information to those who may be interested. An on-line version of this newsletter, containing direct links to more information on the issues covered, can be found at: www.pwgsc.gc.ca/transformation/newsletter/

To contact us or to receive copies of this newsletter, please e-mail: questions@pwgsc.gc.ca

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ISSN 1718-4908

