

How can we improve procurement decision making through a centralised online data analytics portal?

Challenge summary

The Procurement Services SA Branch of the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) is responsible for implementing and governing the South Australian Government's Procurement Framework. In 2019, the Productivity Commission's inquiry into the Government's procurement activity identified that SA Government procurement data collection and analysis capability is not fit for purpose.

Procurement data can be very useful for informing decision making and measuring the success of events and initiatives. Current processes are ripe for improvement, for example, the process to assemble a report such as *SA Government spend on Aboriginal Businesses* takes months of manual input from all public authorities to assemble. Identifying local and small businesses capable of supporting the State through events such as bushfires or pandemics is also challenging with no centralised supplier register or supplier capability data. Through this Challenge, DTF is seeking to work with an innovative startup(s) to automate and augment data matching and data cleansing process such as duplicate (but still unique) supplier records and produce procurement focussed reporting from many uniquely configured financial systems and transactional records.

Overview of the Challenge

The State Government expends \$11 billion annually on goods and services and construction, where each Public Authority maintains unique supplier and financial data structures making the reconciliation and classification of transactional and contracting activity data highly disaggregated.

The development of a centralised online data analytics portal will improve the quality of the supplier and transactional data, creating operational efficiencies when responding to Executive and Ministerial information requests. Improving the timeliness and accuracy of data provided will inform decisions which affect the State's economy as well as measure performance of Public Authorities—identifying opportunities to reduce cost through identification of contract duplication and overcharging.

A clearer understanding of the SA supply market and its capabilities will also provide the State Government with better information upon which to measure policy and response metrics.

To achieve this, we need to work towards a single record for each supplier that engages with the State and then to align data from other sources with each of the supplier and Public Authority transactions.

The Procurement Services SA Systems and Analytics team is currently in the process of establishing a centralised Procurement Activity Reporting Systems (PARS), a Vendor Information Portal (ViP) and integrating several key Public Authorities to automate the process of collecting procurement activity information. We are in search of the development of further innovative enhancements to the system which will provide integrated tendering, secure data transmission between public authorities and suppliers, cloud based secure infrastructure to host the systems, technology to analyse supplier invoicing information, data deduplication, and advanced procurement intelligence.

This Challenge is to identify potential SA innovators who can contribute to the data deduplication and data intelligence components of the system.

Desired Outcomes

- automation and augmentation of the process of validating, deduplicating, matching and cleaning supplier company records, including contacts and transactional data such as contracts and invoicing. This may include a combination of human and machine learning processing of data
- reduced administrative effort for procurement professionals and improved accuracy and quality of supplier baseline data
- tools that will identify and classify business and spend information to produce configurable data visualisation

Commercial benefits of the solution

The Government will have better data to identify savings and other opportunities or risks within the annual \$11 billion SA Government Goods & Services, and Construction spend.

Suppliers will benefit from a single view of their relationship with SA Government, reducing the administration and effort.

The successful innovator(s) will be able to reference DTF as a commercial customer and their solution will be showcased at the Commonwealth sponsored Australasian Procurement and Construction Council attended by procurement leads from all jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand.

Further information

A Q&A session will be held where further information can be obtained directly from DTF Challenge Owner and the Go2Gov Program Manager. To register your interest for this session and if you have any further questions regarding this Challenge, please contact the Program Manager at DIS.SmartProcure@sa.gov.au.

How to apply

For information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit www.fixe.org.au