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Cybersecurity: A Procurement Concern – What can Buyers do to mitigate the risk

Identify and encourage sourced suppliers to enter the cybersecurity assessment process

Be able to monitor their progress

Embed recommendations from Information Security in their agreements with suppliers

Access cybersecurity ratings through their Supplier Relationship Management

Set acceptance thresholds for suppliers

Easily identify suppliers at risk and help them to improve

Share recommendations with internal stakeholders

As we look back at the significant achievements in planning sector requirements, EPS would like to acknowledge the successful collaboration established with its HEI and ETB education partners through proactive and ambitious shared objectives and goals. In developing the MAPP programme, we will continue to increase utilisation and delivery of central arrangements for education.



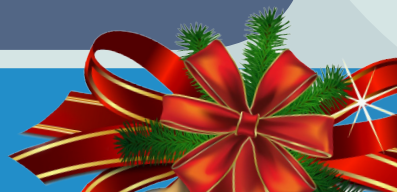
We are having an extremely busy year in our sourcing activities. We recently completed the Framework for the Supply of Learner Books and Exam Papers for the Education and Training Boards valued at over €22mn. Across Laboratory, Ag & Vet and Library there have been over 180 projects completed thus far this year, 61% of which relate to the Education Sector. Our savings to date are over €11.1mn.

Another development in 2021 was the rollout of the SharePoint 365 portal. Over a 6 month period the project team lead by Gerry Kennedy, defined, planned and executed the project. The platform is a user friendly interface for the team to produce, file, collaborate and share content safely which is reassuring at a time when cyberattacks in organisations are on the increase.

Further in the Newsletter we have a piece on a number of promotions within the organisation. The growth of our staff is of particular importance to me, I am a strong believer in training and development and employee mentorships.

We attended the National Procurement Awards and I was delighted to receive on behalf of the staff the NPA for 'The Best Procurement Team of the Year 2021'. This is our third time winning this award which is a testament to the work that our staff put in throughout the year. We also brought home the 'Best Education Procurement Project of the Year' for the EPS and DoE Supply Agreement for the Supply of PPE to the Education Sector.

PHILIP GURNETT, EPS Director



Multi-Annual Procurement Plan (MAPP) Programme 2020-2022



MAPP DATA



Denise O'Malley,
Corporate Services
Manager

MAPP Programme 2021

Looking back on 2021 the Corporate Services team completed a large programme of work.

From the aggregated MAPP data that was gathered we produced a number of reports including:

- Education and Training Boards Sector Summary Report
- Institutes of Technology Sector Summary Report
- Technological Universities Sector Summary Report
- Universities Sector Summary Report
- The Individual Institution Reports

The performance chart below compares 2020 with 2019 and it provides a picture of improvement, in both uptake and use of national frameworks. This comparison shows an increase in National Frameworks from 32% to 38% and overall procurement compliance increased from 78% to 95%.

The Workshop Output Report was circulated to the sector in September following an intensive round of workshops in Q2, where we met with the OGP, LGOPC and our own sourcing team at EPS. This report gives insightful information from the workshop discussions including an indication of what frameworks cover the full scope of education sector requirements and those areas that require strategic planning specific to the sector needs.

We held a number of remote MAPP Information Sessions in Q4 where Philip Gurnett gave an overview of the 2021 MAPP programme of work and set out the priority areas for the coming year. I spoke to the sector procurement

performance metrics and Maria Cooney gave attendees an overview of the Sourcing Workshops Output Report. The sessions were well attended by our sector procurement colleagues, and the feedback was very positive:

"I found the session informative and useful. It looked like a significant piece of work, and I am grateful to you all for taking the time to share it"

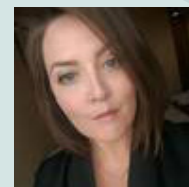
We are now planning our fourth year of the MAPP process with over thirty eight HEIs and ETBs providing their three year forecasted procurement requirements and current contract position with a cumulative value of almost €1.8 billion.

The deadline for the submission of the 2021-2023 Multi-Annual Procurement Plan (MAPP) to the Education Procurement Service (EPS) was November 1st 2021. I would like to acknowledge the continued support of our HEI and ETB partners and the quality of data provided in MAPP submissions. We are committed to ensuring this information is comprehended into planning for innovative and dynamic procurement solutions to meet the sector requirements.

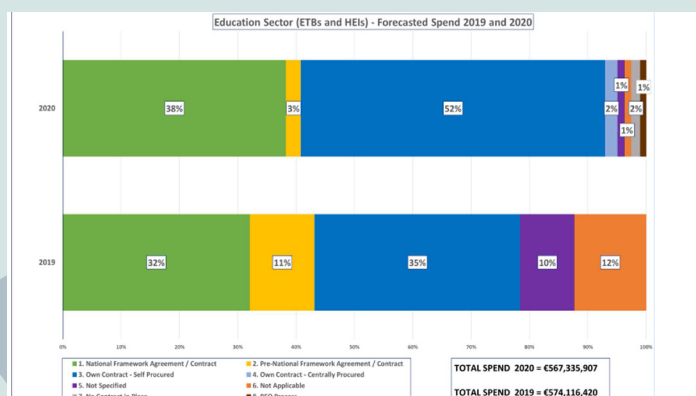
Latest Testimonials

What are people saying about us?

"Since the development of the MAPP process, the OGP has worked closely with EPS. We have successfully held MAPP workshops with EPS and OGP Portfolio Managers. These workshops afforded the OGP an opportunity to understand the requirements of the Sector. The OGP looks forward to working with EPS as they progress the MAPP programme, continuously ensuring that the data it provides is utilised in the best way to deliver significant benefits to its stakeholders and the public procurement model."



Eleanor Stokes
Key Account Manager, Office of Gov. Procurement



All the Team at EPS wish you and yours a very Merry and safe Christmas

2021 Operations Achievements



David Mangan,
Portfolio Manager

EPS operations is having its most successful year to date. As of October, EPS delivered over 180 compliant tender competitions totalling approximately €390mn in value and accruing over €11.2mn in savings. Considering the remote working environment this has been

a major accomplishment for our operations team of 10 staff. Some of the most notable project deliveries in the past 12 months include:

- Framework Agreement for the provision of Laboratory/Research Chemicals and Reagents for the Public Sector
- Supply of Learner Books and Exam Papers for the Education and Training Boards
- Agreement for the provision of Equipment for Optical Telecommunications Laboratory Testbed for Open Networking Applications
- Framework Agreement for the Provision of Library Databases for HSE Libraries
- Framework Agreement for the Supply of Print Books and Audio-Visual Material to Public Libraries for the Local Government Management Agency
- Development and Support of SITS System
- Foreign Exchange Payment Services Solution for the IUA
- Supply of CO2 Monitors for the Department of Education
- Supply of E-Textbooks for Higher Education Institutes

2021 saw the implementation of the Contract Management System (CMS), which will provide an automated system to capture and report all tender and contract management activity. The system provides a tailored workspace to record and manage day-to-day tasks and activities for all of the project requirements that are managed from a sourcing, tendering and contract management perspective.

Sustainability is always at the forefront of the work we do in EPS. A high percentage of laboratory consumables are made from plastic and heavy glassware. As part of the development of the Framework for Laboratory/Research Chemicals and Reagents we incorporated sustainability goals into laboratory processes through promoting suppliers to offer green alternatives to their products. Under the mini-competition drawdown method, framework clients can evaluate framework members using the award criteria ranges published with up to 30% sustainability weighting for the mini-competition award criteria.



The internal project team rolled out the EPS SharePoint 365 portal. This move to the cloud platform means that information is always available in a familiar environment, ready to be accessed by a simple search. Users can easily create, store, collaborate and share content through the use of modern SharePoint sites and document libraries, access internal sites, documents, and other information from anywhere - at the office or at home.

Professional Progression in EPS

The single biggest innovation and investment that the EPS operation strives to improve is in its people. It is a key objective of the EPS Strategic Plan to support staff and we are delighted to see the development and progression of individuals within the organisation.

Colette Gallagher and Maria Owens both interviewed for the Category Manager roles and were successful in securing their positions as the new Category Managers.



Colette joined the EPS in 2018 and has managed numerous projects across all of the EPS categories, including the Framework for the Supply of Learner Books and Examination Papers for ETBs. Colette is looking forward to taking on the challenge of Category Manager for the EPS Laboratory/Research Diagnostics, Services and Equipment Category.



Maria Owens started with EPS in 2018 and has worked on the Laboratory and Medical Gases Framework for the Public Sector and the Framework for transport for ETBs. Maria has completed projects on Library requirements and Education strategic procurement projects. Maria will be taking on the role of Category Manager for Education.

All the Team at EPS wish you and yours a very Merry and safe Christmas

Professional Progression in EPS

Ann Murray and Siobhan Ryan were also successful in their interviews for Category Specialist Higher roles.



Ann Joined EPS in 2018 and has worked on numerous projects including the Lab Consumables Framework. Ann was instrumental in EPS securing the award for Best Green Procurement Project in the 2019 National Procurement awards. We are delighted to announce Ann will be moving to the Ag & Vet and Library team as Category Specialist Higher.



Siobhan started with EPS in 2018. Siobhan has worked on many High-end Lab equipment projects including the Laboratory Consumables Chemicals and Reagents Framework and procurement for the design and development of Medical Device Concepts. Siobhan is delighted to take on the role of Category Specialist Higher with the Laboratory team.

November 2021 - National Procurement Awards

On Thursday, November 18th, the winners of the 2021 National Procurement Awards were revealed in front of a live digital audience and a physical audience from Clontarf Castle in Dublin.

The EPS team once again rallied and submitted 4 projects for the 2021 awards and we were delighted to have 2 wins. The first win being the 'Best Education Procurement Project of the Year' for the EPS & DoE Supply Agreement for the Supply of PPE to the Education Sector.

The second win was for 'The Best Procurement Team of the Year 2021', this was an especially important and meaningful win for the team here at EPS. EPS has flourished into a remote-working, high-functioning, high-performance public sector procurement centre of excellence despite the team being forced to move to a working-from-home remote environment.

Special thanks to all members of the EPS team that put the time and effort into their submissions!



On the 14th September 2020, the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, announced the supply agreement to facilitate the education sector accessing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



"One aspect of our work has been to facilitate the procurement of PPE to help support a safe return to education for further and higher education students and staff. My Department and the Department of Education now have in place a supply agreement and I am pleased to announce that further and higher education providers are now invited to access the supply agreement and procure a supply of PPE through this supply agreement."



Stay tuned to the EPS website, Twitter handle and LinkedIn pages for updates on the progression of Category Management strategy and all news related to EPS operational projects!

For your general enquires, specific feedback or suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please contact us:

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