

Lithuania's central purchasing body introduces GPP

CENTRAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT AGENCY, LITHUANIA

Procurement objectives

The Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) acts as the central purchasing body in Lithuania. It is responsible for implementing eGovernment, transparency and environmental initiatives in public procurement, and does this by establishing electronic framework agreements for a range of product groups. Nearly 12% of all Lithuanian purchasing authorities have used these frameworks, which allow for cost and time savings, as well as addressing environmental concerns.

Background

Since September 2007, the GPP criteria applied in the CPMA's tenders are based upon the core and comprehensive EU GPP criteria. Draft specifications are submitted to purchasing organisations and suppliers for comments, to ensure they match user needs and market availability. Once established, the framework agreements are accessible via an [online catalogue](#), which allows orders to be placed directly by purchasers.



Criteria used

CPMA has implemented GPP criteria in its frameworks for the following product groups:

Office IT equipment (including desktops, laptops, displays and imaging equipment)

Technical specifications:

Compliance with the latest [Energy Star](#) minimum energy performance levels

- Possibility to upgrade equipment
- Maximum 3.5 mg of mercury per light source for LCD displays
- Maximum noise levels of 40 decibels when idle, 44 decibels when accessing hard disk drive
- Availability of spare parts in the future
- Duplex printing function
- Possibility to use refilled cartridges

Stationery and office supplies (including toner cartridges, light bulbs, paper products and writing implements)

Technical specifications:

- Recycled raw materials should be used where possible
- Paper products must either contain at least 75% recycled fibres (pre- or post-consumer recovered fibres), or where virgin fibre is used a minimum of 10% must be certified as originating from sustainably managed forests ([FSC](#), [PEFC](#) or equivalent), or 100% of the fibres must stem from well-managed forests. Compliance may be proved by an eco-label fulfilling these criteria, technical documents from the manufacturer, third party certification or other documents proving conformity.
- Paper products must be elemental chlorine free (ECF) or totally chlorine free (TCF)
- Light bulbs must meet "A" rating or higher under the [EU Energy Label](#), with a minimum operational lifespan of 10,000 hours
- Toner cartridges must be refillable

Printing and copying paper

Technical specifications:

- Category 1- Recycled paper: Paper must be made from 100% pre- or post-consumer recovered paper fibres
- Category 2 - Sustainable fibre based paper: A minimum of 10% of the fibre must be certified as originating from sustainably managed forests ([FSC](#), [PEFC](#) or equivalent), or 100% of the fibres must stem from well-managed forests. Compliance may be proved by an eco-label fulfilling these criteria, technical documents from the manufacturer, third party certification or other documents proving conformity.
- Elemental chlorine free (ECF) or totally chlorine free (TCF)

The award criterion for the frameworks was lowest price.



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Results

In total there are over 60 different product specifications offered in the [online catalogue](#) for purchasing organisations to choose from. Buyers are able to easily find green products as they are specially marked in the catalogue. Thanks to the simplified procedures and intense competition, one of the main concerns regarding the price of environmentally friendly products was solved. Major discounts for all product groups have resulted in reasonable prices for green products too.

A reporting function was developed within the online catalogue, to assist in monitoring the uptake of products meeting the GPP criteria. This shows an impressive share of contracts in which green products were purchased: 61% for IT equipment, 76% for office paper and 49% for stationery products. The most popular green products are desktop computers and notebooks. The largest purchase of green products was 1,000 notebook computers purchased by the Ministry of Education and Science.

Environmental impacts

The use of more energy efficient IT equipment by public authorities contributes to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production and distribution. Savings on materials are achieved by ensuring the easy upgrade of equipment, availability of spare parts, duplex function for printers and ability to refill ink cartridges. Control of hazardous substances such as mercury ensures that these are less likely to end up in the ecosystem.

Paper products can have a large environmental impact through deforestation, water and land use. Using recycled fibres, or virgin fibres certified as coming from sustainably managed forests, helps to address these impacts. The further impact of the centralised frameworks can be seen in the use of an e-procurement system and catalogue, which saves on paper during the tendering and ordering process.

Lessons learned

The main challenge was to develop ambitious and realistic green criteria for long-term framework agreements. As there were no strictly structured minimum criteria in the national legislation at the time, the core and comprehensive EU GPP criteria were consulted and used to develop CPMA's criteria. This decision proved to be provident as Lithuania's [national GPP policy](#) (published in 2007) was later based on the EU GPP approach.

CPMA constantly seeks to implement good practice in centralised procurement. As framework agreements covering more product groups are introduced, the plan for the near future is to expand the GPP approach to include life-cycle costing (LCC) in the evaluation process. The agency is also interested in implementing a more comprehensive life-cycle assessment (LCA) method in public procurement and plans to train its specialists in this approach.