

Framework contract for green IT equipment in Gipuzkoa

GIPUZKOA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL (BASQUE COUNTRY), SPAIN

Procurement objectives

In 2008, a public tendering process for a three year framework contract for the supply of office information technology (IT) equipment for Gipuzkoa's Provincial Council and other autonomous or public bodies based in the province took place. Three companies were selected to supply 450 desktop computers, 300 monitors, 20 laptops, 20 light laptops, and accessories.

Background

In 2004, Gipuzkoa's Provincial Council approved the Programme of Action to Promote Sustainability in the Inner Workings of the Council. Implementation of the Programme is based on the steps detailed in a number of Provincial Plans stemming from the Action Programme, including the Plan for Promoting Green Purchasing. The latter includes actions such as achieving leadership and political momentum, and defining a GPP policy with objectives and targets.



The region of Gipuzkoa is home to 706,000 people, and its capital is Donostia-San Sebastian.

Criteria used

To prepare the tender, Gipuzkoa's Provincial Council used the GPP criteria developed by the Basque Environmental Management Authority of the Basque Government ([ihobe](#)), which are in line with the common [EU GPP criteria](#) for office IT equipment. Furthermore, a seminar with potential suppliers also took place to further define the criteria and to help send a clear signal to the market of the upcoming tender.

Sustainability criteria were included in the description of the technical characteristics of the contract and were also used as a basis for evaluating offers.

Technical characteristics:

- All equipment will comply with the [Energy Star](#) certification
- Noise levels of central processing units (CPUs) will not exceed those defined by ISO 7779: Standby < 48 dB(A) and accessing CD ROM drive < 55 dB(A)
- Monitors will fulfil the requirements regarding ergonomics and electromagnetic emissions as defined by [TCO'03](#), or equivalent
- Materials used shall not contain lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB or PBDE as specified in [Directive 2002/95/EC](#) and its amendments.
- Plastic parts: > 25 grams are marked according to ISO 11469; > 100 grams will be mono-material or easily separable materials; the interior will not be made out of metal and if it is, it can be easily removed; > 25 grams be free from flame retardant substances in concentrations higher than 0.1% by weight, classified as R45/46, R60/61 R50/51/53 and according to [Directive 67/548/EEC](#).
- In laptops, the batteries do not contain mercury in concentrations higher than those specified in [Directive 91/157/EEC](#). If hazardous batteries are used they are easily separable and shall be labeled according to the above Directive.

Guarantee: The equipment will have a three year warranty and include maintenance and replacement, if necessary.

Awarding the contract: A weighting of 40 percent was given for fulfilling the technical characteristics, 40 percent was allocated to price, and the remaining 20 percent was for service.

Results

Execution of the tendering process demonstrated that suppliers are not well placed to deal with sustainability requirements. They are knowledgeable when it comes to office IT equipment; however, major gaps exist when it comes to environmental aspects of products. On the other hand, manufacturers – particularly, well-known brands - are increasingly aware of sustainability issues and product characteristics, and include information about these aspects in product sheet specifications.

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The total contract value for the three-year framework contract was 1,856,000 Euros.

Environmental impacts

Public bodies in the EU are significant buyers of computers, responsible for buying 2.8 million computers annually, which accounts for 12 percent of the market. [EU research into quantifying the effects of GPP](#) found that if the European market could be moved to producing slightly more efficient PCs than over 8 million tonnes of CO₂ could be saved - equivalent to the emissions of almost one million people.

In 2009, Ihobe decided to develop a methodology to measure the extent to which GPP had been implemented in the Basque Country. Ihobe decided to adapt the methodology used to measure GPP across the EU to the Basque context by piloting the methodology with a group of public administrations experienced in GPP. The group included Gipuzkoa's Provincial Council, which then calculated that their own procurement of computers with "green" characteristics criteria corresponded to an annual reduction of CO₂ emissions of 33.4 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents.

For more information, please see European GPP criteria for office IT equipment – [product sheet](#) and [background report](#).