

Innovation Procurement Initiatives in Germany

Since the 2006 High-Tech strategy for Germany stressed the potential of public procurement to drive innovation in Germany, several initiatives emerged. In 2007 six federal German ministries agreed on a joint initiative “Intensified innovation oriented public procurement¹”: Administrative instructions point clearly to the option of procurement of innovative solutions. Working groups have been built within ministries which systematically identify innovation related procurement needs and establish functional performance requirements that will lead to innovation activity. As a result procurement of innovative products has increased, in particular with respect to energy efficiency. Furthermore, in 2009, the German law against restraint of competition (GWB) was modified so that public authorities can also require innovative aspects apart from social and environmental aspects in the service specifications.

In 2010-2011 the German Federal Ministry for Science and Technology (BMWi) also published brochures to raise further awareness about the possibilities to encourage innovation through public procurement² and on the possibilities for pre-commercial procurement³ (called Vorkommerziellen Auftragsvergabe) in Germany in particular. In cooperation with some regional research and innovation organisations (e.g. ZENIT, Nordrhein-Westfalen), the BMWi also started encouraging German public procurers to participate in the European FP7 2011-2013 calls for proposals for cross-border PCP and PPI projects. Following these calls German public procurers are currently active in FP7 funded cross-border PCP projects in the area of high performance computing (Jülich Forschungszentrum), embedded ICT for fire fighter garments (Dortmund), e-learning (ministry of finance Saxony Anhalt), telemedicine (University Clinic Aachen), digital preservation (Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz). German procurers also participate in EU funded PPI projects on lighting (Bremen).

According to a [German government study](#) in 2009 already 10% of public procurement spending in Germany was going to buying innovative solutions (PPI), but R&D procurement was lagging behind. Therefore in 2012 the German BMWi ministry dedicated a budget of 2,8 €Mio to provide financial incentives to German federal public procurers to pilot R&D intensive public procurements such as PCPs nationally in Germany. At a BMWi-ZENIT conference⁴ organised in Düsseldorf 8 May 2012, the BMWi financial incentive program was presented. BMWi also awards a yearly prize for the most innovation minded public procurement in Germany.

In 2013 the BMWi also created a [German competence centre for innovation procurement](#). The aims of the centre are to increase the share of total public-sector purchasing in Germany that goes to innovation-related procurement (PCP and PPI), to provide significant stimuli for innovation in the business community and to modernize the administration. The competency centre informs procurement departments about the potential of procuring innovations. The

¹ “Beschluss zur verstärkten innovationsorientierung Öffentlicher beschaffung”, BMWi, 2007:

http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/beschluss_innoavtionsorientierung.pdf

² <http://www.bmwi.de/BMWi/Redaktion/PDF/Publikationen/Technologie-und-Innovation/impulse-innovationen-oeffentlichen-beschaffungswesen,property=pdf,bereich=bmwi,sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf>

³ <http://www.hk24.de/linkableblob/1682884/.3./data/Broschuere-data.pdf;jsessionid=29841D3D772EBC6D21A12274CB1614AA.repl1>

⁴ www.nrweuropa.de/Horizon2020

centre's main activities are providing information and advice, as well as assisting the public sector with the procurement of innovative products, services and procedures.

Contacts

Mrs. Henrik Weller

Leads the German innovation competence center KOINNO

Tel. +49 (0) 69 / 308 38 - 129

E-Mail: henrik.weller@bme.de

Website German competence center for PCP and PPI: <http://www.koinno-bmwi.de/>

Mr. Wolfgang Crasemann

Referatsleiter für Grundsatzfragen der Technologie- und Innovationspolitik

Contact person for the BMWI instruments for fostering innovation in public procurement.

E-mail: wolfgang.crasemann@bmwi.bund.de

Mr. Anne Müngersdorff

Contact person innovation in public procurement, ZENIT, Region Nordrhein-Westfalen

E-mail: mu@zenit.de

Website: <http://nrweuropa.zenit.de>