

Innovation Procurement initiatives in Spain

I. Anchoring Innovation Procurement in the political context

The Spanish national innovation strategy (E2I), drafted 2010, emphasises the importance of developing a stronger public demand-driven innovation policy for development and deployment of innovative solutions. Special importance is also given to sustainable development in this respect.

Inline with this national innovation strategy, a working group of the Spanish ministry of science and innovation (MICINN) and CDTI (national Spanish centre for research and innovation), develops in more detail the Spanish strategy for PPI (public procurement of innovation) instrument¹.

In the Spanish guide on Innovative Public Procurement² (Compra Pública Innovadora, CPI) is defined as an administrative action to promote innovation aimed at fostering the development of new innovative markets from the demand side, through public procurement.

The Spanish CPI strategy foresees two complementary mechanisms:

- Pre-commercial Procurement: Compra Pública Pre comercial (CPP): procurement of R&D to get new solutions developed, without procuring large volumes of resulting end-solutions
- Innovative Public Technology Procurement: Compra Pública de Tecnología Innovadora (CPTI): procurement of commercial end-solutions, without procuring R&D. For CPTI, FCP (Forward Commitment Procurement) using in particular the competitive dialogue are applied.

The E2I State Innovation Strategy is backed by the Law of Science, Technology and Innovation, approved on May 2011. March 2011 the LES (Law on Sustainable Economy)³ is passed in Spain, which updates the legal basis for pre-commercial procurement and sets amounts to be spent on PCP by government agreement. 8 July 2011 the Spanish government announced⁴ a package to give a strong impulse to CPI, including the setting of a national target of 3% of the budget of the General State Administration to be spent on CPI.

II. Spanish financial support for public procurers

The above legislations on CPI foresee a role for CDTI to deploy a financial incentive scheme to encourage Spanish public procurers to undertake more CPI procurements (CPP and CPTI). CDTI can finance up to 75% of R&I costs related to CPI projects. At present CDTI has funded a first few CPTI pilot projects, no PCP projects yet⁵.

¹<http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.7eeac5cd345b4f34f09dfd1001432ea0/?vgnextoid=d7e6c3f020682310VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD>

²http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/stfls/MICINN/Innovacion/FICHEROS/Politiclas_Fomento_Innv./Guia.CPI.pdf

³http://noticias.juridicas.com/base_datos/Admin/l2-2011.t4.html#balloon4

⁴<http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.edc7f2029a2be27d7010721001432ea0/?vgnextoid=94af08541a901310VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=4346846085f90210VgnVCM1000001034e20aRCRD>

⁵<http://www.pianoo.nl/sites/default/files/documents/documents/3cpublicinnovationprocurementgarrido.pdf>

III. Spanish innovation procurement projects

The Spanish government is mobilising around €200Bn per year on innovation procurement via the EU Structural Funds. The own contribution that is not co-financed by the Structural Funds is financed by the Spanish central government. No real PCP procurements have been conducted so far through this scheme.

Individual Spanish procurers have started implementing PCP procurements themselves through participation in FP7 funded projects (in healthcare and e-learning domain). Procurers from Catalonia region in particular are active on this front.

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Overview presentation about Spanish CDTI support to CPI and case examples (in English):
<http://www.pianoo.nl/sites/default/files/documents/documents/3cpublicinnovationprocurementgarrido.pdf>

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