

Strategic Improvement Project (SIP)

The Oregon Department of Administrative Services State Procurement Office (DAS-SPO) is currently working on the Strategic Improvement Project (SIP, for the state's procurement system. SIP will culminate in the Strategic Improvement Plan in November 2008.

What is the SIP project?

A collaborative effort to create a picture of the optimal procurement system for the state and develop a strategic improvement plan that will show us how to achieve that model, while preparing the system and the people who use it for change.

Why now?

- The needs of public procurement customers are changing. Public sector procurement shops are experiencing an increasing volume of work, while resources to complete the work are diminishing.
- Customers expect quick, if not immediate results. In many areas of our lives, technological advances have created 24/7 access to information. Customers bring those expectations to the public procurement arena.
- The current procurement system is complex system of interconnected and inter-dependent entities that balance a variety of public priorities. In some areas the system is fragmented, rigid and cumbersome; the entities disconnected and overlapping.
- Some vendors are unwilling to participate in the state's procurement system, limiting the state's ability to buy goods and services at the most competitive prices.
- In the increasingly global marketplace, Oregon must compete with other states and countries for the same resources.
- Oregon's workforce is changing. We have to be prepared to provide meaningful work in a flexible environment.

What are the components of the SIP project?

To reach our goal of transforming Oregon's procurement system, the SIP project will engage in the following activities over the next few months:

- **Take a snapshot of the current system.** Document the procurement system and DAS-SPO operations as they function today. This includes mapping processes and interviews and focus groups with stakeholders. (August to September)
- **Identify a new business model.** Research best practices in state procurement and decide what Oregon's ideal procurement system would look like. (September to October)
- **Create a blueprint.** Develop a Strategic Improvement Plan outlining the actions necessary to achieve that ideal system. (October to November)

What parts of the system are we examining?

Taking a snapshot of the system means identifying "what's going on now." The purpose is to identify each part of the system, how those parts are connected and the influence each has on the system as a whole. We will be examining:

- Current processes and critical functions.
- How people and organizations within the system relate to each other.
- The flow and volume of work moving through the system.
- Who works in the system and what skills do they have.
- The roles and responsibilities of the various system owners.

How will stakeholders be involved?	Stakeholders will be involved through focus groups and interviews that will help the project team get the “snapshot” of the current system and identify areas for improvement. Stakeholders also will participate in surveys asking for their input.
What are the principles guiding the project?	<p>Project leaders have identified a set of principles that will guide each step of the SIP project. The three most important are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate. Actively involve people and organizations within the procurement system at each step of the project and implementation. • Recognize mutual dependence within the procurement system. People and teams working in the procurement system depend on each other for their individual successes. • Base improvements on facts. Obtain and use accurate data about current practices, results and anticipated benefits when considering change.
What is our vision for 2015?	<p>Oregon’s procurement system supports government agencies subject to Oregon’s Public Contracting Code, ORS 279, to meet their business needs in a legal and timely manner that ensures thoughtful stewardship of the state’s resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system is flexible, responsive, transparent and relevant to Oregon’s emerging needs. • The system is continuously reflecting, learning, improving and innovating. • Partnership is strong among all stakeholders of the procurement system. • Quality is foremost in all aspects of the system.
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