

Southern University Purchasing Consortium (SUPC)



Issues

Southern University Purchasing Consortium (SUPC) lets goods, services and works contracts on behalf of 37 Higher Education establishments throughout the UK.

In addition to the considerable task of managing multiple purchasing stakeholders throughout the procurement process, there is significant pressure to ensure that all contracts are let within the boundaries of the EC Procurement Directives. In order to ensure full compliance with the EC Directives and also recent local legislation and European case law, SUPC had to maintain multiple channels of information, such as websites, conferences, official publications, journals and legal representation which added complexity, time and cost to the contract letting process.

Solution / Benefits

SUPC subscribes to THEMiS and recommends individual member organisations subscribe in order to address these issues. THEMiS provides a solution to all the EC Procurement needs in one web-based solution, allowing for ease of access anywhere and at anytime. In addition to recent case-law, legislation and interpretations by recognised EC academics and lawyers, subscription to THEMiS has also provided expert telephone advice ensuring SUPC contracts are let within the relevant framework of rules.

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Issues

Bracknell Forest Borough Council, an organisation of 3200 people is responsible for over £150m of spend on a wide range of goods, products and services in addition to managing over 5m customer contacts each year.

In common with all public sector organisations, Bracknell complies with the EC Procurement Directives and in addition to the common EC queries had a specific query regarding the specialist procurement of a building via an external contractor - Was this a service or works contract?

Solution / Benefits

With help of the THEMiS system and Achilles specialist advice the correct assessment and procurement procedure was adopted. This removed the burden to tax payers of having to fund external legal advice by providing an accurate and concise consultation.

The System

Provides up-to-date advice, frequently asked questions, policy guidance, consolidated UK legislation and EC directives, and an 'ask-the-expert' service. CPV and other coding systems are easily searchable and the system allows you to send electronic notices directly to the Official Journal (OJEU).

THEMiS is updated monthly to ensure that the information offered is up to date and contains over 10 man-years of content and guidance.

The telephone advice service backs up THEMiS on-line and provides peace of mind in the letting of contracts.

THEMiS draws on expert guidance from globally respected EC experts from Academia, Legal and practical procurement professions.

"Having Achilles on tap for advice on some of the more obscure and specialist issues that arise is an essential supplement to our in-house legal and procurement expertise."

Steve Kay
Senior Procurement Officer
Bracknell Forest Borough Council



For more details and information please contact

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