



Electronic data collection by the US federal government



Public Procurement Principle: **E-procurement**



Procurement Stage: **All stages**



Audience: **Policy maker, Procuring entity, Private sector**

Description

In the United States, a number of electronic procurement tools have been made available for contracting authorities at the federal level. If contracting authorities choose not use these centralised tools, they must submit federal spending data to the Federal Procurement Data System. Federal contracts over a value of USD 3 500 (as well as contracts that incur subsequent modifications) must also be submitted to the Federal Procurement Data System.

The federal government uses the data kept in this system to measure and assess:

- 1) the impact of federal procurement on the nation's economy
- 2) how awards are made to businesses in various socioeconomic categories
- 3) to understand the impact of full and open competition on the acquisition process
- 4) to address changes to procurement policy

These measurements and assessments are made possible through the use of unique identifiers. These identifiers connect the collected information to other systems that hold information on suppliers. Each supplier is given a code that allows authorities to reference the number of transactions with suppliers against other information like company size and tax information.

The System of Award Management (SAM) is a separate database that suppliers must register with before being able to bid for (and provide) services to the federal government. SAM allows government agencies and contractors to search for companies based on ability, size, location,

experience and ownership. When connected to information in the Federal Procurement Data System, the government can monitor the success in bidding for public tenders of: SMEs; businesses owned by women, veterans and minorities; and businesses located in economically challenged areas.

Contracts can also be aligned to special spending categories in order to monitor spending at a more granular level. For example, the government has established unique codes for natural disasters. Associated contracts are aligned to the code for natural disasters in order to monitor spending on cleanup efforts.

Source: OECD (2019), [Public Procurement in Germany: Strategic Dimensions for Well-being and Growth](#), OECD Public Governance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris

