

QS World University
Rankings
Top 50 under 50

Dublin City University

HEA Procurement Summit

A DCU Perspective



- DCU Procurement Background
- Environmental Context
- Pathways to Market
- Challenges from a DCU Perspective
- Governance & Procurement
- Procurement Compliance
- OGP
- Comptroller & Auditor General

- €50m Non Pay Spend
- Significant Growth
 - >17,000 students
 - Doubled in size in the last 5 years
- DCU Incorporation Project
- Research Intensive
- Diversified Funding Streams
- International Operations
- DCU Commercial Group of ten companies
- Distributed Procurement Model

- Public Finances
- Funding environment
- Ensure optimum use of public funding
- Greater focus on procurement
 - Value for money
 - Compliance
- Greater publicity of non compliance
 - Media
 - Statement of Governance and Internal Control
 - Public Accounts Committee

- OGP/EPS
- HEAnet
- Direct Tendering
- Mini Tender off existing DCU Framework
- Single source supply
- Quotations (<€25k)

- Potential for Conflicting Priorities

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 - Customer service
 - Compliance
 - Achieving value
 - Delivering what is required
 - Within the required timeline
 - Important that staff see that they can get what they need by following procedure
 - Objective is to get staff to see procurement as a service partner not an inhibitor

- Potential for Conflicting Priorities
- Planning
- DCU Incorporation

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 - Three Institutions became part of DCU
 - DCU Systems and Procedures
 - 250 staff from three Institutions
 - People Change Management Challenge
 - Legacy contractual relationships



- Potential for Conflicting Priorities
- Planning
- DCU Incorporation
- Communication
- Distributed Procurement (147 buyers)
- Health and Safety Issues Timeline
- Amalgamation of Suppliers
- DCU Commercial Group

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- Health and Safety Issues Timeline
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- Research

- Research
 - Specific requirements can narrow the supplier base
 - Distributions to research consortium members can be viewed by auditors as payments for services
 - Forecasting of expenditure values may not be clear in a research programme
 - Level of lab testing may be dependent on the outcome of results and continuity of supply important
 - Research Programme commences on funding award – can reduce lead times for purchasing decisions

- Procurement Compliance taken very seriously
 - Several layers of Governance and Oversight
- Governing Authority
 - DCU Reputational Risk is a Key Focus
 - Statement of Governance and Internal Control
 - Approval of significant contracts
- Audit Committee
- Risk Committee
- Capital Projects Framework

- Procurement Policies
- Training
- Communication
- Financial System ('Agresso') Checks
 - PO >€25k work flowed to procurement for release
 - Accumulated Spend Alerts
- Signing Authority Policy

- University Collaborative Procurement
- OGP Starting from Zero
- Concerns
 - Capability of OGP
 - Timescale of ramp-up
 - Clarity on division of roles between DCU & OGP
 - Would only focus be price?
 - Loss of control over assessment
 - Would service be delivered on time?
 - Autonomy of University

- Where are we now?
 - OGP still building capacity
 - Procurement Cycle
 - Strategy Development (OGP)
 - Sourcing (OGP/DCU)
 - Specification of Requirements (DCU)
 - Administration of Process (OGP/DCU)
 - Supplier Relationship Management (DCU)
 - OGP Frameworks easy to use & self explanatory
 - Additional financial savings achieved
 - Having a framework in place is a significant time saving
 - OGP/EPS experienced & easy to deal with

- Ongoing Challenges
 - Resources and timelines
 - Important to both DCU and OGP
 - Consistency between OGP and EPS
 - Alignment between OGP & C&AG requirements
 - Ensuring ongoing communication between OGP and DCU to ensure that frameworks put in place can meet DCU's requirement

- C&AG Statutory Auditor
- Procurement Compliance is key focus
- C&AG sample sizes present a challenge in a distributed procurement environment
- New contract not in place on ending of previous contract means DCU would be non compliant
- Aggregation of spend
- Research compliance in funding agency audits may be deemed non compliant in C&AG audit



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Questions?

