

E-PROCUREMENT - A CONTINUING E-GOVERNANCE JOURNEY OF THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH - TOWARDS COST-SAVING & TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT'S PROCUREMENT

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ABSTRACT

Procurement is usually regarded as a sensitive function in the government environment and is handled in a closely guarded and controlled manner. It is for this reason; procurement is also one of the sectors that remains insulated against any process improvements. Presently, it is being realized world over, that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can remove the existing administrative barriers and make the government's functioning more efficient, accessible and transparent, besides being cost-effective. E-procurement is one of the attractive quick-wins in e-government plans of the countries which have taken the initiative of introducing the e-governance. E-procurement is starting to grow in most European Union countries and is being driven by a renewed focus on cost cutting, different sourcing practices, and quantifiable benefits of implementations. E-procurement is related to different aspects of the procurement function supported by various forms of electronic communication. There is a little history of extensive use of e-procurement in the public sector except perhaps in certain entities in the military and public health sectors. The present paper highlights the successful implementation of e-procurement solution in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the contribution it has made to, the suppliers and government directly, and the society, indirectly.

KEYWORDS: E-Procurement, SMART Government, Self Service Zone, Dynamic Pricing Engine