Sector Leading Discussions for the Future of the ASDT Collaborative Initiative

Post-secondary sector representatives have been working hard to formulate the agenda for the upcoming ASDT Partnership Forum on January 22, 2015.

At their latest planning session on December 11, the ASDT Wave 1 Leads and Joint Procurement Legal Working Group discussed the anticipated requirements of a joint procurement team to support the Wave 1 initiatives, and the approach and timing to launch the Wave 2 joint procurement opportunities.

Participants provided feedback and reached a common understanding of the proposed phased approach toward a sector-sustained model to support the future of the ASDT initiative, including resourcing, roles and responsibilities of a small, dedicated Joint Procurement Team and proposed ASDT governance model.

These topics will be brought forward with other agenda items being set for the ASDT Partnership Forum, including a benefits tracking update on Wave 1 opportunities, and a review of proposed branding options for the joint procurement initiative.

Langara’s Chris Arnold-Forster (centre) leads a discussion on requirements for a Joint Procurement Team during a planning workshop at UBC Robson Square on December 11.
Scotiabank Awarded Sector C-Card Master Contract

Seven post-secondary institutions are set to realize financial savings and efficiencies through a new Commercial Card (C-Card) contract awarded to Scotiabank through the BC Public Post-Secondary Purchasing Consortium.

The C-Card master contract is the first awarded through the Consortium following a comprehensive selection process developed by the Commercial Card Working Group, led by Barry Coulson, Associate Vice President, Administration and Finance at Langara.

Many thanks go to working group members Barry Coulson and Chris Arnold-Forster, Langara; Chris Jones, Camosun; Jennifer Thibeault and Mary Aylesworth, SFU; John Brown, KPU; Kathy Griffin, UFV; and Sue Fleck, NIC.

The seven post-secondary institutions that are initially participating in the new C-Card program are SFU, BCIT, Langara, College of New Caledonia, Kwantlen, Camosun, and University of Fraser Valley. Other institutions are expected to sign up as their existing contracts expire.

“Each PSI will contract directly with Scotiabank and will be able to implement according to their timetable and needs,” said Coulson. “The commercial card contract is an example of how post-secondary institutions can benefit from the Joint Procurement Consortium’s unique platform to innovate, share ideas and explore opportunities.”

The C-Card program is tailored to each institution for purchasing. Efficiencies can be realized through automation, improved user interfaces and integration with sector business systems.

Actual savings and benefits will be measured and reported in the New Year through the ASDT benefits reporting process.

Watch for a sector announcement on Natural Gas early in the New Year!

Upcoming Meeting Reminders

ASDT Partnership Forum
January 22, 2015 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., SFU Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Vancouver

This session brings together the ASDT Steering Committee, Joint Procurement Committee, VPs of Finance, senior procurement professionals, Association Presidents, Wave 1 leads and the Ministry to plan the future of the ASDT initiative.
ASDT Initiatives – Progress Summary

**Office Supplies**
- ✓ Decision Note on sector strategy being prepared for JPC review in January

**Travel Management Services**
- ✓ RFP closes January 5, evaluation of submissions January – February, contract award targeted mid-March

**Vending Services**
- ✓ RFP closed, evaluation team currently evaluating submissions; watch for an announcement in the New Year

**Finance – Merchant Fees**
- ✓ Analysis completed, a number of PSIs have expressed interest in working with government to start onboarding at the end of January 2015; ECUAD pilot underway

**Finance – Central Deposit Program (CDP)**
- ✓ 13 institutions currently using CDP, 4 more signed on to start in the New Year

**Finance – C-Card**
- ✓ See article on page 2

**Procure-to-Pay**
- ✓ Approval to proceed with a business case, sector working group being established

**Sector Print Strategy**
- ✓ Proposal to complete a sector strategy recently approved by ASDT Steering Committee, previous Print Working Groups being consolidated and relaunched

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This update is distributed to:

- PSI Presidents
- VPs of Finance and Administration
- Directors of Finance (FinWizards)
- Procurement Professionals
- ASDT Steering Committee
- ASDT Joint Procurement Committee
- BCAIU, RUCBC, and BCC Presidents
- ASDT Wave 1 Leads and Teams
- BCcampus
- Post Secondary Employers’ Association
- BCNET
- Ministry of Advanced Education