



Science Warehouse

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Key Facts

- Is a best of breed catalogue management solution and e-marketplace designed to meet the exact needs of world-class research organisations.
- Over 5000 customers of the RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd have access to over 1.6 million products from 47 suppliers ranging from office supplies to scientific equipment.
- Is seamlessly integrated with the Oracle 12i I-Procurement platform offering end-to-end process automation.

Key Results

- Our researchers can make informed decisions on the best value product using like-for-like product comparisons.
- Our Category Managers can deliver their agreements via the e-marketplace knowing that their catalogue content and supplier connections will be efficiently managed.
- The e-marketplace offers comprehensive management information. This includes identifying areas to target for savings as well as tracking contract compliance.

“This is a flagship shared services project..We had to be certain that the chosen provider would deliver a best-in-class service to our tight deadlines.”

Mark Holroyd, Head of Procurement Systems Implementation at the RCUK SSC Ltd

USING THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY AT THE RIGHT TIME

Technology is a key enabler but only one component of the tools used by the SSC procurement team. Science Warehouse lets the SSC Procurement team focus on category management, supplier development and collaborative procurement.

The Challenge

The SSC Procurement Team is targeted with the delivery of significant benefits over 10 years which will largely be achieved through the implementation of a category management methodology supported by Oracle I-Procurement for sourcing and purchasing and Science Warehouse to manage product catalogues.

- Amalgamating the purchasing requirements of seven Research Councils and institutes across the UK.
- To find a full procure-to-pay solution to support and automate end-to-end processes.
- To deliver effective management of millions of products in an online market place that is suited to the complexities of research procurement.
- Achieving savings targets for the first two years since inception of £18.3 million from Procurement with a new target set for this year at £25 million.
- Having negotiated great value contracts, how do we persuade customers to use them?

The Solution

The Science Warehouse solution will aggregate all of our suppliers' products on a single hosted catalogue. Users have a single, intuitive buying experience which saves them time and effort.

- All connections to suppliers and catalogue content is fully managed by experts at Science Warehouse.
- Science Warehouse will provide e-ordering and e-invoicing seamlessly integrated with the Oracle platform for world-class efficiency.
- Enhanced management information provides a decision support tool for Category Managers and ensures that compliance to contracts is maximised.
- Science Warehouse - likened to the Amazon experience - now has 1.6 million items and 47 suppliers which continues to grow. Ultimately there will be over 100 hundred suppliers with 2.5 million products ensuring maximum purchasing choice for our customers.

The Result

Allowing technology to handle purchase to pay transactions lets the SSC Procurement team focus on the strategic and collaborative side of procurement which is where value for money is delivered.

- Up to 80% of all transactions can be automated via this easy to use system. Customers are only a few clicks away from placing their order, no matter how complex the product.
- The SSC Procurement team saved £12.7m last year alone via strategic sourcing and Category Management - Science Warehouse helps users to make these savings happen by using preferred supplier contracts.
- We have only one external supplier connection to manage rather than 100+. We also minimise the administrative effort of managing the data for millions of catalogue products.
- Automated processes need less human intervention and are less prone to errors. Customers, suppliers and the Shared Services Centre all gain efficiencies: a win-win-win situation.

Professional people working together, delivering quality services for the benefit of the research community