

What is pre-commercial public procurement?

Pre-commercial public procurement is an approach for procuring R&D services.

The public sector in the EU, as elsewhere in the world, is faced with important societal challenges, in particular in the transport sector. Addressing such challenges requires new and innovative solutions, such as the development of cooperative mobility systems.

Some of the required improvements are so technologically demanding that either no commercially stable solution yet exists on the market, or existing solutions exhibit shortcomings which require new R&D.

By developing forward looking procurement strategies that include R&D procurement to develop new solutions that address these challenges, the public sector can have a significant impact on the mid to long-term efficiency and effectiveness of public services as well as on the innovation performance and the competitiveness of European industry.

Thus, by acting as technologically demanding first buyers of new R&D, public procurers can drive innovation from the demand side.

Developing a strong European home market for innovative products and services is key for Europe to create growth and jobs - quickly evolving from R&D to markets in fields like ITS.

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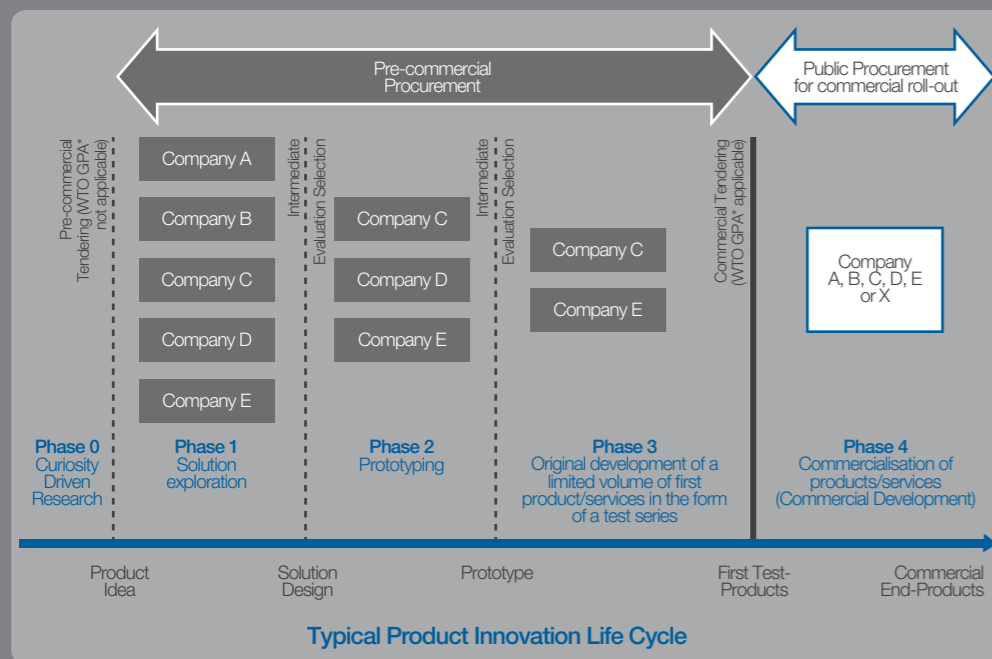
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Pre-Commercial Public Procurement



Advancing Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems and Services through public policy

For several years, the European Commission has dedicated specific working programme topics to cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems and Services (ITS) to help advance technical research in this area. The results of this research programme are expected to contribute to the shaping of European, national and regional public policy frameworks.

Public authorities play a major role in making a success of cooperative ITS. In order to ensure a wide European deployment of cooperative ITS, public authorities should establish national cooperative infrastructure (road side equipment) that ensures cross-border and cross-brand interoperability for systems.

Pre-commercial public procurement: a tool to boost ITS innovation

The procurement of cooperative systems by public authorities is considered critical for the timely availability and deployment of these services. Pre-commercial public procurement will not only be a major tool to boost innovation, it is also considered to be an important tool to improve the conditions to move from the current R&D stage towards a large scale market of ITS services.

Expected benefits of pre-commercial public procurement

1. avoid locking into proprietary solutions
2. reduce market fragmentation
3. minimise financial barriers for alternative competing developments
4. keep the R&D benefits and value as much as possible in the private sector domain where it provides the basis for competitiveness, continued innovation and deployment



P3ITS: Creating a dialogue between procurers and industry in the ITS sector

The P3ITS project will start a dialogue between procurement experts, agencies and industry professionals from the ITS sector, with the aim of building a network of procurers and industry experts as consultation partners.

Due to the complexity of the topic, the project will address more or less 'isolated' problem definitions. P3ITS will first focus on the needs and requirements for the innovation and migration from R&D towards large scale market of cooperative ITS services.

Secondly, P3ITS will focus on the options and mechanisms that pre-commercial public procurement - as a special structure for procurement - provides for risk sharing and stimulating innovation.

Following the identification of requirements from industry and analysis of mechanisms for pre-commercial public procurement (PCP), the project will consolidate the results and extend the individual conclusions.

The P3ITS research questions

How can PCP specifically be used to increase Europe's innovation and competitiveness in the transport domain and meet the challenges of national, regional and urban transport policies?

Where should PCP be extended by supplementary financial tools and/or activity towards commercialisation of the solutions?

What are the specific requirements for the PCP of some specific cooperative intelligent transport systems and public transport systems?

P3ITS in Brief

The P3ITS project started in January 2010 and will end in June 2011. It is funded through the European Commission 7th Framework Programme.

