



## Team Georgia Marketplace

Do you submit or approve requisitions for supplies or other resources for your department? If so, are you comfortable with the manual, paper-based process? What if that process was automated so you could do most or all of your tasks online, just like your banking? Well, you may be interested to learn such an automated system is on the way within the State of Georgia.

Team Georgia Marketplace, a Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) effort to upgrade the state procurement system, is about to roll out an automated procurement system within the Department of Human Resources (DHR), the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), as well as all of DOAS. This pilot program, scheduled for deployment on January 20, 2009, will introduce automated requisitioning, approvals, buying, sourcing, contracting, and communications with vendors who will be referred to in the new system as suppliers.

Employees within the pilot groups began training in November, mostly courses related to the completion, submission, and approval of requisitions. Approximately 380 users will complete training prior to the initiation of the new system, which is comprised of five (5) PeopleSoft modules and a 3<sup>rd</sup> party catalog solution hosted by SciQuest.

- eProcurement
- Strategic Sourcing
- Contract Management
- P-Card Reconciliation
- eCatalog
- eSupplier

Most recently, the eSupplier application was deployed in early November, which allows suppliers that provide goods and services to the state to register their information with Team Georgia Marketplace. This will allow suppliers to communicate with the state electronically including being notified of bid solicitation opportunities, submitting proposals electronically, and having access to their own bid history. These suppliers, or vendors, currently use the Vendor Registration System (VRS), which will be phased out in January 2009, when the rest of Team Georgia Marketplace is deployed. To help suppliers, and potential suppliers called bidders, to register, Team Georgia Marketplace hosted regional Supplier Seminars in November and these will continue into January. As with the other Team Georgia Marketplace applications, eSupplier will streamline many of

the interactions with suppliers and bidders. These efficiencies will save you and the state's suppliers time and energy, resulting in better service by all.

Future users of the other Team Georgia Marketplace applications have been introduced to the functions of the software through a series of demonstrations and public process reviews called Road Shows. During these highly interactive sessions, users were able to see the application work flow and functional screens. This exposure allowed users to comment on the benefits of the applications. Most users believe these new applications will save them time, allowing them to spend time on more complex issues to include providing service to customers. As the system rolls out statewide in the future, many more of these sessions will occur.

The applications, using integrated information, will allow users and suppliers to check on the status of requisitions, purchase orders, and contracts. Since this new procurement system will be automated, some users will notice an increase in emails, which will be requests for approvals or information, depending on their role. These users will also see decreases in cycle time to process requests due to electronic work flow. More role change information will be communicated and discussed in training.

Once these pilot agencies begin using these applications in January, Team Georgia Marketplace will start preparing for a state-wide roll out.

So, one day soon, you may submit or approve your last paper requisition. It may be a somber or celebratory moment for you; regardless, it will indicate transformational change continues to sweep the State of Georgia. After all, change happens.

Additional information about Team Georgia Marketplace is available in two online publications, *Georgia Purchaser* and *The Supplier Source*, both of which can be found here: <http://statepurchasing.doas.georgia.gov>.

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