



Cooperative Purchasing Venture

What is the COSTARS Cooperative Purchasing Program?

COSTARS is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's cooperative purchasing program and serves as a conduit through which registered and eligible Pennsylvania local public procurement units (LPPUs) and Pennsylvania state-affiliated entities (together "Members") are able to leverage contracts established by DGS to cost-effectively and efficiently identify suppliers with whom to do business.



THE GOALS OF THE COSTARS PROGRAM ARE:

- To encourage, expand, and facilitate the opportunities for Members to achieve procurement savings and the best value through an interactive partnership with the Commonwealth.
- To provide increased opportunities for Suppliers of any size to participate and compete for Members' business.
- To provide contracts with competitive pricing.

How do I participate?

To become a COSTARS member, your organization can register online at www.dgs.pa.gov/COSTARS. Eligible local public procurement units must register on-line with the Department of General Services. Once you register, and if eligible, you will receive an approval letter with your member number.

The Commonwealth Procurement Code provides the statutory authority for Member entities to engage in cooperative purchasing with the Commonwealth. The Procurement Code authorizes DGS to enter into cooperative purchasing contracts solely for the use of its Members. DGS requires eligible Pennsylvania LPPUs and state-affiliated entities to register as COSTARS members, and only those organizations registered with DGS may purchase from the contract. Several thousand potential purchasers are already registered with DGS as COSTARS members.

What can I purchase through the program?

- Portable and Truck Mounted Pipeline TV Inspection Equipment
- Cameras
- Camera Transporters
- HD Digital Side Scanning Camera Systems
- Pipeline Data Acquisition Software & GIS Interface
- Lateral & Mainline Probes
- Lateral Reinstatement Cutters
- Laser/ Sonar Profilers
- All CUES Products!



What are the benefits of being a COSTARS member?

DOLLAR SAVINGS—Volume purchasing results in lower prices; using established state contracts eliminates the need for specification development; advertising, printing, mailing, and bid evaluation.

CONVENIENCE—Using state contracts facilitates the purchase of goods and services by simply issuing a purchase order to the state contract supplier of record.

FLEXIBILITY AND VARIETY—A broad selection of commodities and suppliers is offered to our more than 8,000 program members. More than 200 state contracts, with a pool of over 2,000 suppliers, are currently available for use by participants. This variety often gives local public agencies the option of keeping their procurement dollars in their local economy, thereby helping to maintain and generate jobs and advancing local economic development.

EDUCATION—Free workshops, online training and a quarterly newsletter are provided by the COSTARS staff to assist members on how to use state contracts, how to purchase from specific contracts of interest, as well as other topics of interest and trends in government purchasing.

Links and Contact Information

For more information regarding the COSTARS Program contact:

Department of General Services Bureau of Procurement

COSTARS Program

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