

Country case: Federal Procurement Data Systems in the United States

Description

Since 1979, the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) has been the primary government-wide contracting database. Its name changed to become Federal Procurement Data System "Next Generation" (FPDS-NG) in 2003, following the first major redesign of the system since its launch. The system includes procurement contract actions reported through connections with the contract writing systems of approximately 65 departments, bureaus, agencies, and commissions. With limited exceptions, it stores information on all federal contract actions exceeding the micro-purchase threshold awarded each year for goods and services; with annual totals above USD 450 billion to over 160,000 suppliers. Over time, the number of data elements has increased from 27 in 1979 to around 200 in 2014 and, over the same period, the contract award threshold for capturing data in the system has decreased from USD 10,000 to USD 3 000. Since 2008, the FPDS-NG also serves as the backbone for providing procurement data to a [searchable database](#) of information on federal contracts and other government expenditures such as grants, loans, and co-operative agreements. Congress and the public also rely on the FPDS-NG for a wide range of information including department/agency contracting actions, government-wide procurement trends, and how procurement actions support socio-economic goals and affect specific geographical areas and markets.

Public Procurement
Principle: **Transparency,
E-procurement**

Procurement Stage:
All phases

Audience: **Policy Maker,
Procuring Entity**

In December 2007, www.USAspending.gov was launched to enable greater transparency in reporting on federal spending in accordance with the 2006 Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. The goal was to establish a single searchable website, accessible to the public at no cost, which includes for each Federal award:

- the name of the entity receiving the award;
- the amount of the award;
- information on the award including transaction type, funding agency, etc; the location of the entity receiving the award; and
- an unique identifier of the entity receiving the award.

The portal supports citizens in conducting additional analysis of government data by enabling them to track expenditures in a user-friendly manner. USAspending.gov has been recently updated in October 2010 to display of first-tier sub-award data (subcontracts and subgrants).

Source: OECD (2014), [“Compendium of Good Practices for Integrity in Public Procurement: Meeting of the Leading Practitioners in Procurement”](#), OECD, Paris.