

Procurement in the Supply Chain: What Tools to Use

Perfecting your procurement processes is a crucial part of streamlining daily operations. Trying to run the numbers in your head is nearly an impossible feat but using the right tools can build your confidence when overseeing the entirety of your vendor purchases. One thing to keep in mind when looking to enhance productivity is by identifying what needs your business currently has and how your eProcurement tool can close gaps in managing your data.

Handling all the aspects which make up a single purchase - from RFIs, RFQs, RFPs, invoicing, vendor management and beyond- means you'll need a reliable system in place which dedicated team members can utilize to oversee important steps for each project. The rise and growing need for eProcurement continues to climb and now you can refer to these tools we've collected to boost your productivity and effectiveness for your supply chain:

Procurify

[Procurify](#) sounds a little like simplify, and truthfully lives up to the name by making procurement simple, painless, and offering a user-friendly platform. Not only has the company made it easy for you to have access to both a laptop and mobile app but they also provide a smart way for users to set permissions and controls for each person on your team. This ensures that you're able to have more control over how to amplify and organize your purchasing power in a way that isn't chaotic or wastes time.

What's not to be missed about Procurify's accessible platform is that it integrates with several other systems you may already have in place. You can masterfully track your records without having to do any major rework or miss important communications.

Tradogram

This solution for your eProcurement needs offers multi-level management for each time your business begins a new workflow when a purchase is being set up. It will eliminate the complications that can come from purchasing goods when dealing with vendors.

[Tradogram](#) also features savvy inventory distribution channel options which can make moving stock items between multiple locations much easier and smoother operations along your supply chain. You'll also be able to manage tasks for your team regardless of if they are in the office with you or stationed in another country.

It's intuitive report builder provides users with options to categorize your purchases no matter the size of your orders. These reports can later be used to determine what your spending is like to create more structured budgets in the future.

SMART by GEP

This cloud-based platform, like Procurify, has an extremely easy-to-navigate system which lets the user quickly switch views from contracts to real-time spending to checking in on your suppliers. Because of its scalability, [SMART](#) can transform your performance by accessing on demand changes even at the last minute, providing you with the power to make faster and wiser decisions to streamline your process.

A unique feature of the software is that the company has partnered with Microsoft to create the Microsoft Azure Platform. Microsoft Azure not only provides security for your data but also enables quick deployment of your supply chain from start to finish.

Gatekeeper

[Gatekeeper's](#) enthusiasm for building sleek workflows for you and your vendors is apparent by how they give you total control of all your necessary data. They provide a way for users to view previously created funnels so you have a better sense of what will work next time to optimize your time even further. RFPs and RFIs can be managed and sorted through quickly through categorizing them.

They also boast a robust tracking system when it comes to data entry and storing data, as well as offer automation for vendor onboarding. SLAs are no match for Gatekeeper, as each member of the team responsible for certain parts of each purchase can be immediately notified of any bottleneck situations that may arise. The system can trigger an escalation and warn you of upcoming issues that may slow down productivity.

Tradeshift

There are a lot of moving components when it comes to [Tradeshift](#) due to the plethora of options which are available to users. With Tradeshift, companies are enabled to gather supplier information based on their specific requirements and validate the data automatically.

What makes this software stand out among the rest is its extremely in-depth features. Tradeshift Buy, Tradeshift Pay and TradeShift Apps all extend over numerous and important aspects when working with vendors and ordering your supplies. The Tradeshift Apps option is particularly intriguing, especially for companies looking to quite literally "mobilize" implementation of new procurement strategies via your phone. With a few simple steps, users can get some of the heavy lifting out of the way, while also lowering TCO at the same time.

SAP Ariba

Like many of our other tool options, [SAP Ariba](#) is a smartly designed program with an emphasis on driving improvement times for fulfillment and financial supply chain

management processes. The company offers plenty of additional solutions for buyers in their search for whole management products, but they also promise to help cut supply costs by 10 percent, reduce buying cycles by 50 percent and lower processing costs by 25 percent.

The system is also designed to deliver quick ROIs with built-in approval flows for catalog and contract compliance. Front-end processes are also taken care of due to easy integration with ERPs to ensure invoicing and payments are recorded immediately.

The Right System for You

Choosing the right eProcurement plan takes time, dedication, and a lot of conversations around how it will best serve your company. There are quite a few factors to go over but do keep in mind the size and focus on your company's immediate needs and the needs you will face soon.

It's important to also remember that your goal is to not only reduce transaction time, but to improve company standards, build stronger vendor relationships, see business growth and amplify product management from start to finish. There will never be one right answer to what your company needs, but thankfully there are many options available on the market today to select from.