



Water PiPP is a collaborative project funded by the European Commission under Framework Programme 7.

Call for Interest

Assistance for Preparing Innovation Procurement in the Water Sector

Deadline: 31 August 2015

Overall aim of the call

This Call of Interest is addressed at public authorities and water utilities that are interested to apply procurement methodologies fostering innovation in the water sector and are looking for guidance and other assistance for preparing related procurement procedures.

The call is part of the Water PiPP project (see below). The overall aim of the call is closely linked to the project's main objective to take advantage of public procurement power to accelerate innovation in the water sector.

What is Water PiPP and who belongs to the Water PiPP partnership?

Water PiPP (Public Innovation Procurement Policies) is a collaborative project funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. It runs from January 2014 to December 2016.

Water PiPP is about exploring and testing public innovation procurement methodologies in the water sector.

The main objective of the project is to mobilise the procurement power of public actors in order to speed up innovation and contribute to solving water-related societal challenges, thus also improving the competitiveness of the European Water Industry in a global market.

For more information on the project see www.waterpipp.eu.

The Water PiPP partnership is composed of a group of innovation procurement and water experts from public authorities, water utilities, networks of cities and regions, and representatives from the research and innovation community in the field of water. This partnership will provide **assistance and guidance to a group of interested procurers in the preparation of Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) and Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) initiatives**. More information on PCP and PPI is available in Annex II.



Subject of the Call for Interest and targeted institutions

The Water PiPP project wishes to identify **procurers in the public domain who are interested in preparing or launching a joint PCP or PPI initiative** in the water sector between Sept 2015 and December 2016.

More precisely, Water PiPP calls for Expressions of Interest from local and regional authorities, water utilities, and procurement agencies that are in the preparation phase of an innovation procurement process (Pre-procurement phase), i.e. **who are investigating the possibility of launching a PPI or PCP in the water sector in order to facilitate innovation and ultimately sustainability.**

Joint procurement by groups of public institutions is especially welcome.

What the project offers to your institution

The **assistance provided by the WaterPiPP partnership** may be particularly useful for those public institutions that are currently preparing or planning the following steps for their PPI/PCP procurement procedures:

- Innovation needs identification, prioritisation and description
- Market scan to investigate whether the desired innovative solution is already available
- Open market consultation and early engagement
- Procurement concept viability
- Resource planning and innovation procurement design
- Identification of and engagement with other procurers interested in preparing the same (or similar) procurement of Research and Development services or innovative solutions in the water sector and establishing joint procurement initiatives

How Water PiPP can support your innovation procurement initiative in the water sector

The [Water PiPP partnership](#) is composed of experts on PCP and PPI as well as from the field of water. Focusing on the procedural dimension of innovation procurement the project partners' assistance will consist of, for example:

- Providing expert guidance in the early stages of the process (pre-procurement or planning stage) including why a PCP or PPI should be considered
- Discussing with you options on how to implement PPI in order to get the best value for money for the innovative solution that is fit for purpose
- Discussing with you when to implement a PCP in order to foster competition and enable the definition of new standards
- Providing access to experiences from real-life cases and linking procurers to other institutions with similar needs and procurement measures

- Sharing how-to-guides and other materials on innovation procurement in the water sector which will be produced in the course of the project

Amongst others the following events and activities are planned, bringing together piloting partners with the experts of the Water PiPP partnership:

- A kick-off workshop to introduce the rationale and benefits of PCP and PPI (in English)
- Webinars and conference calls to provide further information and guidance and respond to common queries deriving from the pilots (in English)

Please note that all activities will be conducted in English.

Eligible applicants and requirements for candidature

Any public procuring entity in the early stages of preparation or intending to start a PCP or PPI process in the 2nd half of 2015 is eligible.

Previous PCP or PPI experience is not required, however, applicants will be asked to:

- Appoint a primary contact person (with a good standard of English)
- Be able to finance their piloting procurement process and any events attended¹
- Participate in all events offered by Water PiPP partners to the institutions selected for the provision of assistance (in particular the first workshop and all webinars and conference calls)
- Allow the Water PiPP project to disseminate the results of their pilot and of their collaboration in the project

¹ Please note that although Water PiPP offers their services without charge (i.e. based on the European Commission's financial contribution) the project does not have any funding available to cover the costs for travel, accommodation or other related expenditures which participating institutions may incur in preparation for their procurement procedure.

Application and selection process

1. Interested procurers should complete the Application Form (Annex III) and send it to the application address provided below.
All information will be treated confidentially.
2. Deadline for applications is 31 August 2015.
3. Selection of the pilots will be done by a Water PiPP pilot selection committee.
4. The criteria against which the pilots will be selected are, amongst others:
 - a. Clarity and relevance to the objectives of Water PiPP
 - b. Potential of further uptake across the European Union
 - c. Possible impacts (reduction or prevention of lock-in situation, savings and quality and/or efficiency improvements in the area of public interest addressed)
 - d. Synergies with other proposed pilots
 - e. Compatibility with the Water PiPP project (e.g. in terms of timing and language constraints)
5. The Water PiPP selection committee will communicate the selected pilots by end of September 2015.

Email address for further questions and for submission of application

Application:

Please submit your completed application to:

call@waterpipp.eu

Inquiries:

The same email address can also be used if you have any questions regarding the call.

In case you need a contact person to talk to feel free to ask for an appointment for a conversation over the phone by sending an email to call@waterpipp.eu.

Deadline for application: 31 August 2015

Deadline for inquiries: 26 August 2015

Annex I

The WIP (Water Innovation Procurement) Group

The WIP (Water Innovation Procurement) Group is a virtual community that is embedded in the Procurement Forum, an on-line hub for the exchange of information, knowledge and experience on Innovation Procurement. See <https://procurement-forum.eu/>.

The target audience of the WIP Group consists of:

- interested public institutions that intend to embark on PCP or PPI activity
- procurement and water experts in the wider sense

The above experts and institutional representatives are invited to observe and learn from each other's initiatives and discuss with their promoters the possible innovative solutions, problems experienced, options for market engagement, etc.

These exchanges will happen in the frame of the [WIP Group](#) on the [Procurement Forum](#) mentioned above. Participants in this Forum will receive regular updates on the Water PiPP project and have the opportunity to, amongst others:

- Learn, connect and exchange with peers and experts from different countries to gain a better understanding of innovation in the water sector.
- Hear about upcoming Water PiPP trainings and webinars.
- Consult guidance documents on how to procure innovation in the water sector which will be available in various EU languages (EN, FR, IT, SP, NL).

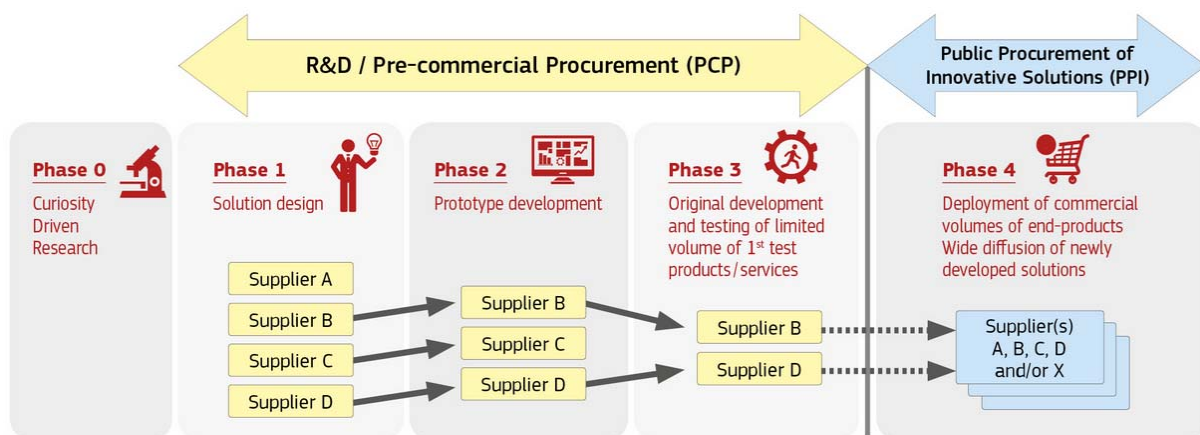
Annex II

What is Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) and Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI)?

'Pre-commercial procurement' (PCP) is the procurement of research and development of new innovative solutions before they are commercially available.² PCP means the public procurement of research and development services where the contracting authority or contracting entity does not reserve all the results and benefits of the contract exclusively for itself for use in the conduct of its own affairs, but shares them with the providers under market conditions. The contract, the object of which falls within one or several categories of research and development defined in this framework, must be of limited duration and may include the development of prototypes or limited volumes of first products or services in the form of a test series. The purchase of commercial volumes of products or services must not be an object of the same contract.³

'Public Procurement of Innovation' (PPI) occurs when public authorities act as a launch customer for innovative goods or services. These are typically not yet available on a large-scale commercial basis and may include conformance testing.⁴ PPI can be used when challenges can be addressed by innovative solutions that are nearly or already in small quantity on the market and don't need new R&D.⁵

See explanatory figure:⁶



² <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/pre-commercial-procurement>

³ Further guidelines on conducting PCP in compliance with the state aid rules can be found in the Communication from the Commission - Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation, 21.05.2014

⁴ Further information can be found <http://www.innovation-procurement.org/about-ppi/>

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/innovation-procurement>

⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/innovation-procurement>