Canada*

**Strategic framework, action plan and scope for procurement for innovation policy**

The federal government of Canada has an Economic Action Plan of which the Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) is part of. Industry Canada has Canada’s innovation strategy entitled “Seizing Canada’s Movement”.

The Action Plan Contracting Policy from the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) provides a procurement framework. Public Services and Procurement (formerly PWGSC) derive the procurement policies from the TBS policy and Financial Administration Act aligning with international trade agreements.

The specific action to support procurement for innovation at the national level of government is the BCIP. PWGSC developed a SMART procurement framework which uses four elements: Early Engagement, Effective Governance, Independent Advice and Benefits for Canadians to support innovation in Canada.

PWGSC is also sharing procurement tools with provinces, municipalities and other government agencies which enable all levels of government to meet procurement obligations and leverage good procurement practices.

The BCIP supports innovation in Canada while aligning with the country’s international trade agreement obligations and Canadian fair, open, transparent and competitive procurement values.

**Challenges, risks and solutions to overcome obstacles**

Canada noted that it was a challenge to align national policies with international trade agreements, while creating a fair and competitive procurement process that allows for the purchase of creative, innovative and not-yet-to-market products which have commercial potential. These obstacles have been overcome.

**Key lessons learned**

Canada stated that a lesson learned was to find a way in which Canada could enhance outreach activities to the benefiting departments to match innovations while building supplier confidence in the process.

**Measurement and impact assessment**

The BCIP was subject to an internal departmental evaluation as it transitioned from a pilot to a permanent programme. The evaluation examined the programme’s activities to assess its relevance and performance. The pilot of the BCIP was found to have a continued relevance and the ability to deliver a unique form of assistance when compared to other programmes.

* OECD Survey Part I submitted by Paul Thomson, Manager, Canada Policy, Risk, Integrity and Strategic Management Sector Public Services and Procurement.
The BCIP performs impact assessments/trends analysis on the data obtained from evaluation questionnaires sent to both testing departments and suppliers upon completion of testing and one year post testing. Related performance indicators that are tracked include the number of testing departments using innovations in operations, the percentage of innovations launched into the marketplace and the number of innovations for which additional quantities have been procured beyond testing.

With the collaborative efforts of multiple government organisations and industry partners, the BCIP helps innovators to bridge the pre-commercialisation gap by helping them move their innovations from the lab to the marketplace through testing in operational environments across government. The BCIP awards contracts to entrepreneurs with pre-commercial innovations through an open, transparent, competitive and fair procurement process for their testing within the Canadian federal government. The programme facilitates testing opportunities within the federal government with testing departments being required to provide feedback to entrepreneurs on the performance of their goods or services. In doing so, the BCIP provides innovators with the opportunity to enter the marketplace with a successful application of their new goods and services. With the help of the Office of Small and Medium Enterprise’s Network of Public Works and Government Services Canada, the BCIP also provides information on how to do business with the government of Canada.