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Upcoming NASPO Conferences

NASPO 2009 How to Market to State Governments Meeting and Green Expo
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
March 22-24

NASPO Southern Regional Meeting
April 13-15, 2009
Montgomery, Alabama
(State Members Only)

NASPO Publications

State and Local Government Procurement: A Practical Guide
Now Available!

2009 NASPO Supplier Guide
The 2009 Supplier Guide is THE source for the latest information on how to do business with state governments.

Contact Us

<http://www.NASPO.org>
nsmith@amrms.com

NASPO Launches Stimulus Website

NASPO is dedicated to aiding its members in the development of strategies for spending state stimulus funds responsibly, quickly, and within the guidelines provided by the law and various state and federal agencies. As such, NASPO has launched a [stimulus website](#), which will contain a variety of resources for NASPO members and their staffs. It will be updated frequently.

The website includes links to legislation and guidance, state eRecovery websites, partner organizations, communications with other associations and federal agencies, a list of potential procurement issues, and additional resources. Any additional information, website links, issues or documents that you would like to see on this page, or that you can provide for the benefit of other NASPO members, can be sent to [Nicole Smith](#).

NASPO Comments on IRS Regulations

Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") has delayed implementation of the 3% contract withholding tax, comments on proposed IRS regulations surrounding the provision were due by March 5, 2009. The NASPO State and Federal Relations Committee drafted comments, which were approved by the Executive Board for submittal to the IRS.

These comments can be accessed on the [NASPO website](#).

NASPO Partners with NASBO, NASACT, and NASCIO on the ARRA

In a letter to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and the General Accountability Office, NASPO joined partner organizations including NASBO, NASACT and NASCIO to call for coordination on the stimulus bill. The text of that letter can be found on the NASPO website.

2009 Survey of State Government Purchasing Practices Coming Soon

NASPO will be launching the 2009 version of its biannual "Survey of State Government Purchasing Practices" this month. The Research and Publications Committee has worked hard to pare down the survey and revise questions to improve the usefulness of the survey as well as the rate of state responses. Please note that the RPN Survey on Environmental Purchasing took the place of that section in this year's NASPO Survey. Your cooperation is essential to making the data collected complete and viable. Check your email inboxes for your link to the survey in the coming weeks.

Government Procurement News

[GAO Issues Cost-Estimating Guide](#) – The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its first-ever manual to help federal, state or local government agencies develop more reliable cost estimates for government projects of all sizes. *Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide: Best Practices for Developing and Managing Capital Program Costs* was released on March 2, 2009 and is available on the GAO website. (GAO)

[Procurement Takes Center Stage](#) - It is widely believed that the economic crisis that America now confronts is the worst since the Great Depression. Against this backdrop, states are taking actions today that few would have thought possible even six months ago. A number of governors have mandated purchasing moratoriums. This month, GoPro interviewed procurement directors from five states to learn how this environment is affecting procurement operations in their states, how they are ensuring operational continuity in the face of severe budget cuts and what silver lining, if any, can be found amid the dark economic clouds. (GoPro)

[Missouri Probes Office Depot School Supply Pricing](#) - Missouri officials have announced that they are investigating allegations that Office Depot has overpriced government contracts for school supplies. The announcement from Attorney General Chris Koster follows similar probes in other states about the company's national contract. Koster spokesman Travis Ford said the investigation began shortly after Koster took office Jan. 12. He said Office Depot's government contract troubles are a "national problem." (Forbes.com)

[Kentucky General: Red Tape Hurt FEMA's Response to Ice Storm](#) - Publicly, local, state and federal officials have lauded federal efforts to respond to Kentucky's massive ice storm. But behind the scenes, some state officials were frustrated by what they saw as communications problems and federal red tape that caused delays, the commanding general of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard told members of Congress during a recent hearing. After the hearing, a spokesman for Governor Steve Beshear said that, while there were some problems during the recovery efforts, the governor is "very complimentary" of the federal response, particularly the leadership displayed by the Obama administration and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano during the storm crisis. (Kentucky.com)

[Alabama Governor Puts State Checkbook on the Internet](#) – Alabama taxpayers will be able to see where every dime of state money goes under an executive order signed by Governor Bob Riley. The directive orders the creation of a publicly accessible website that details all spending, grants and contracts done by state government. The public information will include the amount of funds being spent, the date of the expenditure, the agency spending the money and the funding source. (MSNBC)

[Larger Acquisition Force Key to Better IT Contracts](#) – Mayer Brown partner Marcia Madsen and counsel Roger Waldron see investing in the work force as key to improving the process and thereby getting innovative solutions adopted more quickly. "One of the things that the private sector really does well when it buys IT is that those companies define their requirements. They put a lot of resources at figuring out exactly what it is that they need to buy. We call it requirements definition. The government, in the IT space, historically and currently, does not do a good job at that. They have trouble figuring out and specifying in terms of -- not writing a spec, but saying, 'This is what I want this system to do.'" (National Journal)

[California Hires Utah Firm to Handle Web Purchasing](#) - California has awarded a Utah firm a \$4.5 million deal to run a Web-based purchasing system for state departments and agencies until the state's own Web procurement system is up and running in 2013. State officials hope the interim system will save both government employees and small businesses time and money, and will boost transparency surrounding government contracts, reducing public records requests. (Sacramento Bee)