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Upcoming NASPO Conferences

WSCA Directors Meeting
Best Western Helena Northern
Helena, MT
June 13, 2008

Eastern Region Meeting
Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth
Portsmouth, NH
July 21-23, 2008

**[Click Here to Register
through June 26, 2008!](#)**

NASPO Publications

2007 Survey of State
Government Purchasing
Practices CD
Now Available!

2008 NASPO Supplier Guide
*The 2008 Supplier Guide is THE
source for the latest information on
how to do business with state
governments.*

Look for **State and Local
Government Procurement: A
Practical Guide**, the NASPO
flagship publication coming early
summer!

Contact Us

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Member News

- Tim Gibney (GA) earns CPPO certification.
- Please join NASPO in welcoming its newest members:
 - [Jane Benton](#) (Arkansas)
 - [Jim Butler](#) (California)

2008 Midwest Region Meeting

The 2008 NASPO Midwest Region Meeting was held May 12-14 at the Westin Columbus in Columbus, OH. Forty-two state procurement staff from nine states attended the three day conference, which featured several cooperative planning work sessions, a presentation on green purchasing by Scot Case of TerraChoice Environmental Marketing, and a discussion of the recent Midwest Governors Association's Bioproduct Procurement Initiative. Many thanks to Stephen Hunter and his staff for hosting this very successful event!

NASPO Benchmarking Study

This is a reminder that the NASPO 2008 Benchmarking Study is nearing its close. The surveys are due July 14, 2008, and the results will be reported in September at the 2008 NASPO Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO.

The NASPO Benchmarking Committee has identified four broad performance categories for the [initial benchmarking survey](#): efficiency of the procurement process, technical and system development, professional development, and costs savings/avoidance. The [original instructions](#) were sent out by Chair [Voight Shealy](#) in February, and were accompanied by a [Cost Avoidance Worksheet](#). You can contact him or [Paul Mash](#) with questions or comments.

NASPO Cronin Award Call for Submissions

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase the excellent work being done by your staff to create innovative procurement programs and processes for state government! The 2008 NASPO Awards Committee is soliciting submissions for this year's George Cronin Awards for Procurement Excellence. Last year's winner was the State of Minnesota's [Spend Analysis System](#).

The deadline for submission is Monday, June 30, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. An [online nomination form](#) is available to simplify the submission process and encourage greater state participation. The winning submission receives free travel for one presenter to this year's Annual Conference! Additional details on the awards program are available on the [NASPO website](#) or you can contact [Julie Gudlewski](#).

Government Procurement News

[The future of procurement](#) - *Government Procurement* talked to a number of analysts and experts to gain some insight into what the future might hold for the profession. Topics included the aging workforce, the growing importance of certification, and job trends for the coming decade. This article quotes NASPO President Jeff Holden, Board Member David Gragan, and Associate Member Don Buffum. ([GovPro.com](#))

[NASCIO Releases Brief on Green IT](#) – The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) has just released a brief entitled “Green IT in Enterprise Practices: The Essential Role of the State CIO.” According to NASIO, “State CIOs can become involved in shaping green IT policies and reducing their state’s carbon footprint in three areas: Asset Management, Energy Efficiency and enabling Green Practices through the utilization of IT.” ([www.nascio.org](#))

[Government Procurement joins forces with NIGP](#) - The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) has selected Penton Media Inc.’s *Government Procurement* magazine as NIGP’s official publication. The first print and digital issue under the new partnership agreement will be published in late June and also will be available at the NIGP Forum and Products Exposition, to be held July 26-30 in Charlotte, N.C. ([GovPro.com](#))

[Strategic sourcing handbook comes in a free downloadable version](#) - Weighing in at almost 300 pages of content, the [e-Sourcing Handbook: A Modern Guide to Spend Management Success](#) can be downloaded from the Web site of Iasta Publishing Co. Five experts in the field of e-sourcing joined forces to author the book. Primary author is Michael Lamoureux, Ph.D., who launched a sourcing innovation blog with the specific purpose of educating practitioners about strategic sourcing and presenting best practices. To download the handbook at no charge, visit <http://www.iasta.com/>. ([GovPro.com](#))

[Best Buy testing free e-waste recycling program](#) - Under pressure to help dispose some of the electronic waste it helped create, Best Buy Co. is testing a free program that will offer consumers a convenient way to ensure millions of obsolescent TVs, old computers and other unwanted gadgets don’t poison the nation’s dumps. The pilot stores are in Best Buy’s Northern California, Minneapolis and Baltimore markets, as well as parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Depending on how the test goes, the nation’s largest electronics retailer may expand the recycling program to all of its 922 stores in the United States. ([www.twincities.com](#))

[Pennsylvania Gets Turnpike Bid From Abertis, Citi](#) - Pennsylvania officials said a \$12.8 billion bid from Citigroup Inc. and Abertis Infraestructuras SA won an auction to lease the state’s only toll road in what would be the biggest agreement of its kind in the U.S. Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell wants to lease the 537-mile (864-kilometer) turnpike for 75 years if the U.S. government rejects the state’s application to put tolls on Interstate 80. Money from a turnpike lease would help the state close a \$1.7 billion gap in transportation funding. ([Bloomberg.com](#))

[Why ISO should be on your radar](#) - ISO 9001 is not just an industrial standard. In fact, it can help public procurement professionals make smart choices in today’s marketplace. A fundamental role of public-sector procurement is selecting vendors and contractors that will deliver quality, reliability and integrity. In today’s unpredictable and dynamic marketplace, ISO 9001 certification is one way to help ensure that vendors possess such characteristics—and more. Unlike the majority of ISO standards, ISO 9001 is, in fact, a generic standard, applicable to any industry and to any type of organization—whether the organization is a business, nonprofit or government agency. ([GovPro.com](#))

[Electronic Procurement in the EU Opens Doors to Cross-Border Business](#) - The European Commission is moving a step closer to making it easier for companies, in particular Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), to bid for public sector contracts anywhere in the EU; a crucial step towards achieving the Single European Market. The Commission will co-finance a pilot project, driven by eight European countries that will create the conditions to link existing national electronic public procurement (e-procurement) systems. ([eHealthNews.eu](#))