



After an extensive competitive process, on April 19, 2011, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Periscope Holdings, Inc. for electronic procurement software including licensing, implementation services, maintenance, and support. The County of San Bernardino e-Procurement Network, also known as “ePro”, will offer web-based vendor registration and bid notification, online solicitations and responses, bid tabulation and award, reverse auctioning, electronic requisitioning and purchase orders, and order management.

The workflow provides appropriate routing and approvals to drive policy compliance and incorporate business practices in county departments, culminating in centrally issued purchase orders, contracts, and requests for payment through the County Purchasing Department.

Benefits related to implementation of eProcurement include:

- Savings due to increased competition, reduced cost per bid, order consolidation, and workload efficiencies;
- Fewer errors due to automation of current manual processes;
- Faster processing to eliminate the need for hand-carried “rush” paperwork;
- Improved customer service due to shorter cycle times and ease of tracking;
- Reduced cost of issuing purchase orders;
- Customizable templates to meet best practices and satisfy legal and policy requirements;
- Improved budget transparency to the public;
- Punch-out ordering capabilities with contracted catalog vendors;
- Superior business intelligence including ad hoc reporting; and
- Ability to integrate with the County’s Financial Accounting System.

The Purchasing Department is managing implementation, along with a core team consisting of representatives from Information Services, Auditor/Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, Human Services, and other user departments. Installation/configuration, customization, and training will be ongoing over the next few months with an estimated phase one “Go-Live” in early 2012.