

Fact Sheet: Circular A-137, Strategic Management of Acquisition Data and Information

Summary:

Today, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a circular entitled “Strategic Management of Acquisition Data and Information.” This circular will improve agency access to reliable Government-wide acquisition data and information throughout the contracting process and help eliminate duplicating data, tools, and effort.

The Federal Government generates tens of billions of acquisition data points in over 170 agency contract management systems and over 15 payment processing platforms. Historically, much of this data has been collected and managed at the agency level, which both limited the ability for agencies to make data-driven decisions in procurement and led to the duplication of effort and resources across the Government.

This circular marks a paradigm shift in the Government’s acquisition data management practices. It establishes the policy and technical foundation that will allow each agency’s data to be scaled and leveraged by all agencies to achieve better contracting outcomes. Smart data stewardship is another important step in our efforts to buy as an organized entity and builds on the practices and principles of category management, which has helped the Federal Government rationalize its activities, and achieve cost avoidance efficiencies of almost \$90 billion over the last decade. This circular makes clear that this data and information is a strategic Government-wide asset to be used, as appropriate, in the lifecycle management of Federal contracts.

Leveraging Acquisition Data and Information

Today, even the most robust standalone agency data environments and tools can only reflect agency-specific data observations, and agencies often can’t share – or use – this information during the contracting process. The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) will manage this circular, and through it will:

- *Establish a centralized data management policy framework – the High-Definition (Hi-Def) Framework.* OFPP will facilitate the development of policies and practices to support the collection, sharing, and use of acquisition data and a comprehensive governance process to ensure datasets and data products are prioritized, managed, consumed, and secured appropriately.
- *Direct the establishment of a new technical data environment (High-Definition Environment (HDE)) that will centralize access to acquisition data across the Federal enterprise and provides the technical infrastructure needed.* Agency data will be shared and accessed in the future by Federal users through a coordinated, government-wide solution that better supports the acquisition lifecycle and reduces the need for duplicative agency investments.
- *Build appropriate centralization.* The circular will support the development of centralized data standards and definitions and the creation of data-sharing tools and programs to help acquisition professionals get real time information, such as pricing data, when they need it.

- *Promote data-sharing technologies.* The circular requires agencies to implement a new annual strategic planning process to support an interoperable future where critical acquisition data can be accessed on-demand.
- *Require data-sharing.* With limited exceptions, agencies will be required to share their acquisition data, such as prices paid and terms and conditions, in phases, as directed by OMB.
- *Facilitate other collaborative actions and workforce development with data management.* Agencies will be expected to actively contribute to existing knowledge portals on innovative techniques and emerging technology and support expansion, implementation, and promotion of acquisition data management training and certification efforts for the acquisition workforce.

Learn more

Read the policy guidance: [OMB Circular A-137, Strategic Management of Acquisition Data and Information](#)

Learn more about Hi-Def: [The Hi-Def Initiative | Acquisition Gateway](#)

Try out the Procurement Co-Pilot, a government-wide market research product powered by Hi-Def data: [Procurement Co-Pilot | Acquisition Gateway](#)