

The Role and Value of QinetiQ Commerce Decisions & AWARD

AWARD is collaborative web-based software designed specifically to support the strategic procurement process. AWARD is proven to reduce time to contract, improve value for money and reduce risk. It has been used to support strategic procurements in a range of commercial and public sectors including utilities, transport, local government, NHS and others.

Award software package allows individual evaluators to input their marks on-line using a collaborative web-based evaluation model. This has allowed a significant number of individuals to take part in various evaluation teams, and for the marks from each team to be entered remotely, but co-ordinated centrally by the PFI office.

This tool has allowed the widest possible participation in the evaluation. Teams have been formed from the University, County Council and City Council who have looked in detail at the proposals for the Library, History Centre and Hub. In addition, teams from the Partnership have evaluated the design, technical and facility management proposal alongside our technical consultants Mott MacDonald and Faulkner Brown. This technical work has been supplemented by evaluation undertaken by the United Kingdom Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP), an Access Group that included representatives of the Worcestershire Association of Service Users (WASU) and the Worcester Civic Society who have provided a much-valued external perspective.

The project team engaged QinetiQ Commerce Decisions, the AWARD provider, at the point of the initial bid process with the identification of three bidders and then throughout the three stages of the bid itself including the initial submission, interim submission and final submission.

An important element of this procurement was the need to follow the competitive dialogue process. AWARD played a pivotal role in allowing the project team to assess where ongoing improvements were being made to the submissions throughout the dialogue phases.

AWARD helped the project in the competitive dialogue process by:

- ensuring the total engagement of the stakeholders
- demonstrating to the stakeholders that their input was being fully taken into account
- allowing the project team to focus on those areas of the submissions that needed improvement
- assisting in the identification of the potential areas of risk and enabling an open dialogue with the bidders

Summary of the benefits of AWARD

- AWARD delivers a transparent audit trail that underpins the bidder debriefing process and manages challenges to the outcome of procurement
- AWARD is web-enabled, allowing geographically dispersed users to work when and where they want to
- AWARD supports and enhances the project and tender management process
- AWARD's powerful document management capability enables easy access to key documents as and when they are needed
- AWARD is a highly flexible tool that allows project managers to fit it to their specific procurement processes
- AWARD supports the competitive dialogue process
- AWARD's powerful reporting capabilities allow reports to be generated rapidly and in real-time
- AWARD improves the quality of the project outcome and reduces the time taken to run the project
- AWARD enhances stakeholder buy-in
- AWARD enables a more efficient, effective and better managed procurement process