

Cooperative Purchasing Venture

What is H-GAC?

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a council of governments, governed by a 35 member board of elected officials. Founded in 1973, H-GAC has more than 30 years of experience in cooperative purchasing, providing competitively bid and awarded contracts to thousands of local governments nationwide. The H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program helps local governments save tax dollars and maximize their purchasing power through volume purchasing, reduced personnel costs, and expedited procurement.

How does the H-GAC Program Work?

To join H-GAC, your agency executes an "Interlocal Contract." There are no membership dues, nor does HGAC membership expire. The document sets out the conditions, requirements, and processes through which your purchase orders are received, confirmed and processed. You send your purchase orders directly to an H-GAC supplier (such as CUES) with a duplicate to H-GAC for confirmation. The supplier processes your orders, delivers the products and invoices you for payment.

How do I purchase without going through my own bid process?

When you purchase through H-GAC, your "Interlocal Contract" connects you with H-GAC's duties and responsibilities on your behalf. H-GAC (1) conducts research and pre-bid/pre-proposal conferences, (2) prepares bid specifications, (3) advertises for bids, (4) solicits bids and evaluates supplier responses, and (5) awards bids that are listed on the web site: HGACBuy.com.



IS MY AGENCY ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE THROUGH THE H-GAC PROGRAM?

The Interlocal Cooperation Act permits joint participation by local governments, states, state agencies, and nonprofit corporations providing one or more government functions and services. Most states have Interlocal cooperation authority or other joint power provisions that allow participation in cooperative activities. No membership dues are required to participate in the H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Find out more about your State's provisions here.

What defines the requirement for "Competitive Bids" and "Competitive Proposals"?

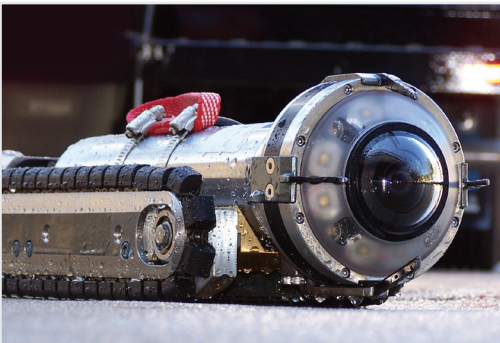
Competitive proposals are limited to procurement of equipment, goods and services that are highly technical in nature (i.e. data processing, telecommunications, electronics, and technical services related to those items), or for professional or consulting services. Competitive bids are prescribed for all other products such as vehicles, heavy equipment, and other products not considered "high tech". Most state laws have authorizing statutes to allow agencies within the states to use government-to-government cooperative purchasing. For your state laws, visit <http://www.hgacbuy.com> and click the area marked Authorizing Statutes.

Cooperative Purchasing

Features & Benefits

What can I purchase through H-GAC?

- Portable and Truck Mounted Pipeline TV Inspection Equipment
- Cameras
- Camera Transporters
- HD Digital Side Scanning Camera Systems
- Pipeline Data Acquisition Software & GIS Interface
- Lateral & Mainline Probes
- Lateral Reinstatement Cutters
- Laser/ Sonar Profilers
- **All CUES Products!**



3 Steps to Buying CUES Products through H-GAC

Step 1: (first time Buyer only)

Execute the "Interlocal Contract" (ILC) found on the HGACBuy website under Program Info, and return to H-GAC. H-GAC will sign two copies and return one to the end user for their records. The ILC may be faxed to 713-993-4548 for expedited processing. <http://www.hgacbuy.com/program/interlocal/default.aspx>

Step 2:

Obtain specific product details from the HGACBuy website, <http://www.HGACBuy.org>. Then contact the nearest CUES sales representative for additional assistance and a definitive price quotation. For assistance contact the CUES Sales Department at 800-327-7791.

Step 3:

Prepare and submit your purchase order directly to CUES after completing consultation with a CUES representative. A copy of the order along with a copy of the CUES written quotation shall be faxed or mailed to HGACBuy at FAX: 713-993-4548. Orders should include specific details regarding the purchase (i.e., name of the end user's contact person, shipping/delivery instructions, and installation details, if any). CUES will then invoice the end user for all purchases, and the end user will pay CUES directly following delivery and acceptance.

What are the benefits of the H-GAC Program?

- Volume purchasing
- Volume discounts
- On-duty staff of qualified government purchasing professionals ready to assist you
- Technical specifications that can eliminate the need to hire consultants
- Elimination of advertising, printing, and delivery costs
- Expedited procurement process without lengthy delays

Links and Contact Information

H-GAC Buy Website: <http://www.hgacbuy.com/>

Authorizing Statutes:

<http://www.uscommunities.org/purchasing-resources/state-statutes.aspx>

CUES Inc. Website: www.cuesinc.com

CUES Sales Email: salesinfo@cuesinc.com

