Open Contracting Data Standard

What is OCDS and how can it support improving outcomes in public contracting?
OCDS: the basics
OPEN CONTRACTING DATA STANDARD
OCDS components

JSON Schema + Documentation + Governance

Technical schema docs

Implementation guidance
Open Contracting Data Standard: Documentation

Governments around the world spend an estimated US$9.5 trillion through contracts every year. Yet, contracting information is often unavailable for public scrutiny.

The Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process by defining a common data model. It was created to support organizations to increase contracting transparency, and allow deeper analysis of contracting data by a wide range of users.

The OCDS approach:

- Publish early, and iterate: improving disclosure step-by-step
- Simple and extensible JSON structure
- Publish data for each step of the contracting process
- Create summary records for an overall contracting process
- Re-usable objects: organizations, tender information, line-items, amounts, milestones, documents etc.
- Recommended data and documents at basic, intermediate & advanced levels
The contracting process

OCDS is about describing **contracting processes**:

**Definition:**

*All the planning, tendering information, awards, contracts and contract implementation information related to a single initiation process.*
The Open Contracting Identifier

Planning  Tender  Award  Contract  Implementation

Single contracting process identifier
Open Contracting ID (OCID)
OCDS: the standard
What is OCDS data?

The only thing that can be truly called ‘OCDS data’ is a JSON document that validates against the official OCDS schema.
Why publish data using OCDS?

- Quality Assurance
- Reuseable Tools
- International Standard
- Publisher and user guidance
- Comparable Data

- Compliance
- Tools
- Evaluation
- Automation
- Visualization
- Analysis
- Conversion
- Sharing
- Community
- Best practice
- Learning
- Templates
- Documentation
-_schema
- Support
- Formats
- Research
- Fraud detection
- Analysis
- Value for money
OCDS: problems and solutions
What problems was OCDS developed to address?

- Often very limited data on contracting
- Contracting data published but only about one stage
- Difficult to join up data from different stages of the contracting process
- Published data is hard to interpret
- Mismatch between the data governments publish and the data users need
How does OCDS address those problems?

OCDS connects supply and demand by:

- Proving a ready made data model based on user needs
- Supporting implementations that contain ‘feedback loops’ between publishers and users
What are the uses of OCDS data?

OCDS was designed around four distinct use cases:

- Value for money
- Detecting fraud and corruption
- Competing for contracts
- Monitoring service delivery
What are the uses of OCDS data?

Each use case has **different data needs:**

- Different fields
- Different documents
- Different publication frequencies
- Different data quantities

OCDS provides a **common framework** to maximise the number of user needs that can be met with data and document disclosure.
OCDS: the bigger picture
OCDS data is important...

‘OCDS inside’

- Joined up data across the whole contracting process
- Data supports many use cases
- The meaning of each field is clear
...but it’s just the foundation

OCDS is ‘inside’, on the ‘outside’ we need:

- Interfaces
- Tools
- Services
- Engagement with users
OCDS provides a mechanism to disclose contracting data and documents to support analysis, monitoring and engagement around public contracting.
OCDS and e-procurement
OCDS and e-procurement

OCDS is not an e-procurement system, it’s a standard for the disclosure of data...

**e-procurement system**
- Tender creation
- Bid evaluation
- Contract award
- Bid submission
- Vendor management
- and more...

**OCDS**
- Data disclosure

**Reusable tools and methodologies**
- Analysis
- Monitoring
- Use

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Open Contracting
Data Standard
OCDS and e-procurement

...however, mapping against OCDS can help make sure that systems are collecting all the data required for disclosure.
OCDS and e-procurement

OCDS can be used to:

- Identify the data that it is important to collect
- Structure data for publication

But, OCDS does not:

- Describe how interfaces for data entry should be designed
- Describe how to store data in an e-procurement system
OCDS: What is it?
Data input and visualization should be designed around user needs.

OCDS provides guidance on what data to publish but not how that data should be collected.
...a framework for building an e-procurement system?

No. But mapping against OCDS can ensure e-procurement systems are capturing all the relevant data for disclosure.
...for managing the full ‘purchase to pay’ journey?

**No.** There are other standards available for management of this process.

However, when governments implement fully digital purchase to pay workflows, they can generate data that should be published through OCDS.

Example: The PEPPOL Standard ([www.peppol.eu](http://www.peppol.eu)) is developing a suite of standards for the purchase to pay workflow.
...a global database of all contracting information?

No. Publication is distributed. But third-parties can choose to aggregate together data from different publishers.
is OCDS...

...a ‘badge’ that publishers can get to certify they are doing open contracting?

No. When OCDS data is published, we can measure certain aspects of open contracting - but not all. Certification standards are very different in their design and operation from data standards.
Yes. The standard describes both what should be published and how it should be published.

However, disclosure via OCDS is only one part of broader open contracting policy agenda: adopting OCDS should be linked to wider change.