

Last call for SOPO Award entries

The Society of Procurement Officers in Local Government (SOPO) is delighted to invite submissions for its sixth Annual Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Procurement.

Nominations for the awards can be made under four categories: County Council, Single Tier (Unitary) Authority, District or Borough Council and Other (which includes police authorities, the fire and rescue service and local government consortia). These award categories recognise the variety of approaches to procurement made by local authorities and provide smaller authorities with a fairer chance of winning.

Submitting an entry for the SOPO Awards can stimulate your staff's interest and help to generate team spirit, quite apart from raising the profile of procurement within your authority. Submissions can be made by an individual or team on behalf of their authority or consortium, and for any area of procurement work that they feel is worthy of consideration and recognition. Entries are neither confined to large or complex procurement nor restricted to members of SOPO, so there is no reason not to enter your work.

Trophies will be presented to all shortlisted entries as well as the outright winners at the SOPO Gala Dinner, which is to be held on the evening of the first day of the Annual Conference on 7 November 2006 at the Novotel London West Convention Centre.

The criteria for judging the submissions will be:

1. Did the work enhance the profile of procurement?
2. Were the aims and objectives clear/achieved?
3. Were cost savings achieved (process costs/total life costs)?
4. Did the work demonstrate innovation?
5. Did the work involve teamwork (staff/suppliers/end customer)?
6. Were there any other indirect benefits?
7. Was the submission well presented?

Make sure that this year you give your authority the opportunity to promote its procurement excellence by submitting a nomination.

Closing date for submissions is 31 August 2006.

For further details of the SOPO Awards, please contact Ken May, Director of ESPO and Secretary of SOPO, at ken.may@espo.org. Alternatively, nomination forms can be requested from helpdesk@sopo.org