

Going for Gold: AWE aims for procurement excellence

AWE has utilised the CIPS Procurement Excellence Programme in support of delivering its vital mission. Most recently, achieving the Gold Award has assisted its transition from a private entity to a public body, and accelerated its continuous improvement journey.

“

This award isn't just about demonstrating to our stakeholders that we are striving to become a leading procurement organisation. More importantly, this is about the commercial team who have taken it upon themselves to create positive, measurable change.”

Barry Hunter
Chief Financial Officer, AWE

CASE STUDY
PROCUREMENT
EXCELLENCE
PROGRAMME





A transformation and a transition

For more than 70 years, AWE has played a crucial role in protecting the nation through nuclear science and technology. As an arms-length body of the Ministry of Defence, their role is to design, develop, manufacture and maintain the warheads for the United Kingdom's Continuous-At-Sea-Deterrent (CASD) and provide nuclear services to meet the needs of defence.

The wide variety of requirements means that AWE's commercial team supports major projects and mission delivery. In the four years since AWE embarked on its procurement transformation journey with CIPS, it has become an arm's length Non-Departmental Public Body, requiring compliance with public procurement requirements for the first time.



A timely positive impact

The process has provided a variety of benefits for AWE not just from the review of its existing policy and procedures, but also from looking at how effectively they were being applied. The organisation saw this as a measure of how far its Commercial Function had come in terms of methodology, procedure and delivery against those standards.

Through the process AWE were able to identify enhancements in areas such as risk management, knowledge management and reporting, and used these as a platform to embed Category Management. The Gold Standard provided a positive mechanism in its improvement journey, both in terms of procurement excellence and government commercial standards.



7000

Approximately 7000 employees



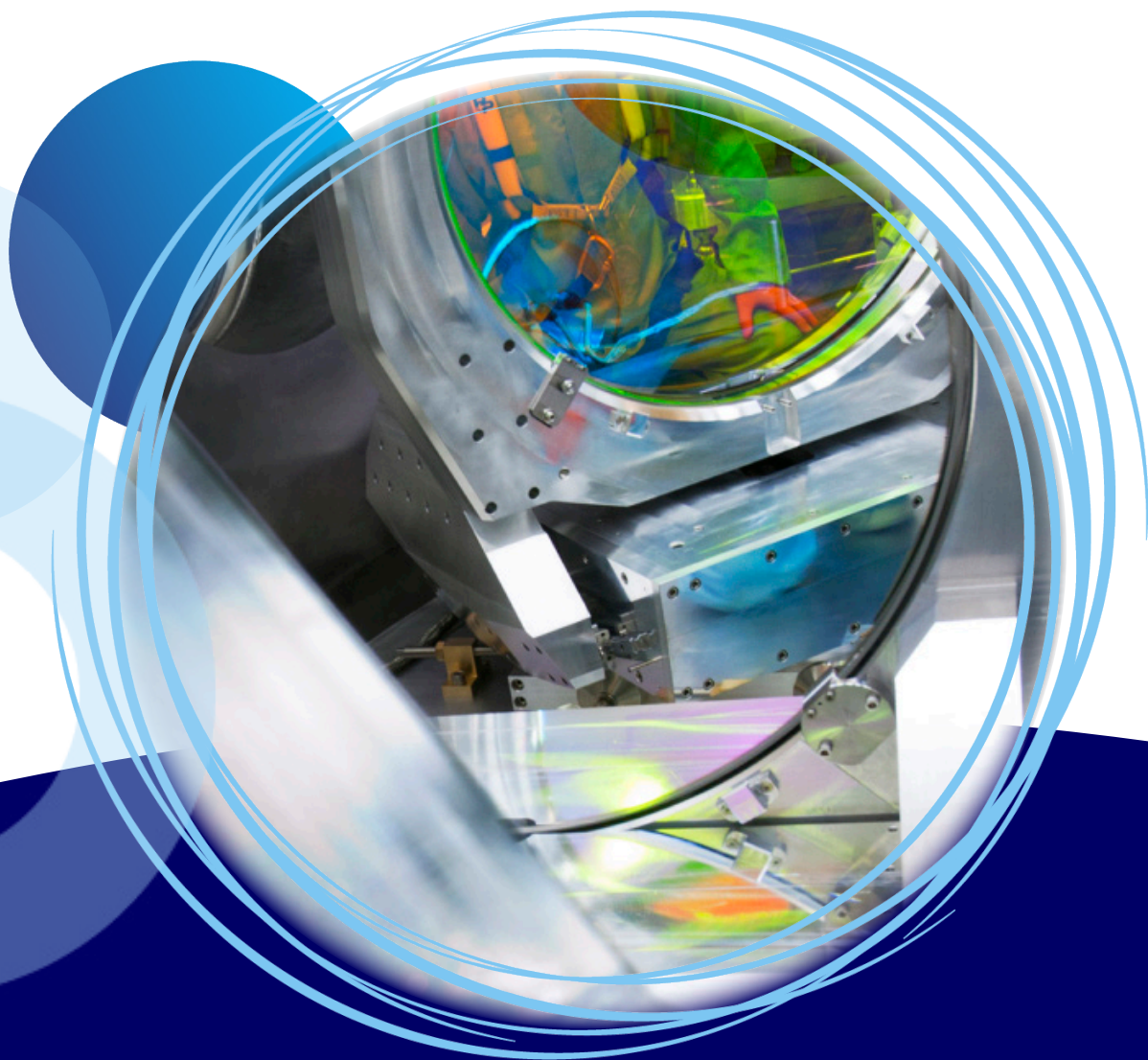
Multiple sites across the UK

140

People in procurement



1 of only 10 organisations worldwide to achieve the Gold award



The benefits for AWE

AWE confirms the Procurement Excellence Programme is delivering value and improvement within the organisation and extending out to benefit supply and delivery partners, as well as end customers, by enabling it to:

- Demonstrate its procurement excellence improvement journey to the Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office
- Utilise learnings as a platform to become a high-performing new public body fully compliant with public sector procurement regulations
- Enhance functional planning and performance reporting through a balanced scorecard approach
- Optimise risk management with augmented risk registers, training and adoption of a best practice corporate process at functional level
- Establish a new knowledge management website to share lessons learnt
- Achieve efficiencies by making sure people have the right information and guidance to hand every time
- Bring the procurement team together through the assessment process and subsequent training and new process development
- Develop the team's skills and knowledge around project and stakeholder management.

“

This project was particularly effective and this was largely down to the skills and approach of the excellent project manager at AWE, who kept up momentum and communication. It helped too that organisational and functional leaders were engaged and supportive and the Commercial team was confident and open minded, with a thirst to improve.”

Alan Martin

Head of Procurement Excellence,
CIPS



The CIPS Procurement Excellence Programme is an independent and comprehensive assessment of your procurement team function designed and delivered by world-class, leading experts.

- Globally recognised award
- Demonstrates how well your procurement function is performing against an internationally recognised standard
- Helps your organisation build a function fit and ready for future challenges



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can develop your
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