



UNIVERSIDAD
DE ALMERÍA



SUCCESS STORY

UNIVERSITY OF ALMERÍA

The University of Almería (UAL) is a Spanish public university that provides training to more than 11,100 students and has more than 850 professors, possessing one of the best and most modern infrastructures for the development of teaching, research and university life.



ENTITY

Due to its innovative character, the UAL was the first Spanish university to use electronic means for the processing of all its tenders.

In 2011, it decided to hire VORTAL to implement in a SaaS (Software as a Service) mode its eSourcing platform for all contracting procedures. Since 2019 and thanks to VORTAL's e-catalogue solution, the UAL has been able to meet the needs of a decentralized departmental structure in terms of procurement.

The UAL has been able to fully automate its strategic purchases through catalogue management, which allows it to select products, and create and approve purchase requests. The functionality provided by the electronic workflow platform has allowed orders to be reviewed, approved and submitted in minutes, when this work had previously taken days.



CHALLENGE

With a starting situation of **30,000 minor contracts processed**, with **more than 1,900 spending centers** with financial autonomy and with nearly **2,000 administration** and service users, as well as teaching and research staff acquiring products, the **University of Almería** faces the challenge of implementing an eProcurement management platform that will allow it to centralize the high consumption of office equipment, solve problems with the supply of computer or laboratory equipment and avoid the recurrent awarding of many small files of educational equipment.

Therefore, the proposed objectives are:

- To reduce the **number of minor contracts**, as a normal way of processing.
- To speed up the purchase process of certain supplies and services thanks to the **Shopping Cart modality**, which allows suppliers to receive the order request directly.
- To continue to maintain the spending **autonomy of spending centers**.
- To improve the **efficiency of the purchasing process** by eliminating manual tasks and saving time and money.
- To promote the rationalization of contracting through **establishments with Framework Agreements and/or Dynamic Purchasing Systems**, incorporating the products into e-catalogues.
- To improve **efficiency by standardizing information loading formats** and product standardization.
- To have **greater control over purchasing**, through control monitors on a single platform.



SOLUTION

Since the implementation of VORTAL's e-catalog solution, UAL has significantly optimized the complete cycle of its purchases, especially those made by several users on repeated occasions, thanks to **purchase planning**. The automation of this process, in combination with the rationalization procedures, **Dynamic Purchasing Systems and Framework Agreements**, is allowing users to obtain a more agile and simple process with all the legal guarantees. The combination of procedures and professional purchasing tools, guaranteeing the principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency, have unquestionably contributed to the **control of the global purchasing process, the standardization of products, the agility of processes and economic savings**.

RESULTS IN NUMBERS

The implementation of the DPS's has meant:



30%

AN INCREASE OF NEW SUPPLIERS OVER 30%.



80%

THE DECREASE OF THE MINOR CONTRACT BY MORE THAN 80% IN THE FIRST YEAR.



70%

THE REDUCTION OF THE AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME BY 70% WITH RESPECT TO THE MINOR CONTRACT.

In the first year of use of the electronic catalogues:



42

CATALOGUES HAVE BEEN PROCESSED.



450

MORE THAN 450 USERS WERE PLACING ORDERS.

"Electronic catalogue techniques, combined with Dynamic Purchasing Systems and Framework Agreements, have led the University of Almeria at the forefront of public procurement. We can say that the University is the only administration in Europe that uses these tools to improve efficiency in public spending."

"The use of the electronic catalogue tool is fully accepted internally. As an example of this, it can be noted that a single user processes 120 orders per day. As to suppliers, their level of satisfaction is very high, as the decrease in administrative burdens for the bidder, when preparing and presenting offers, is very noticeable."

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