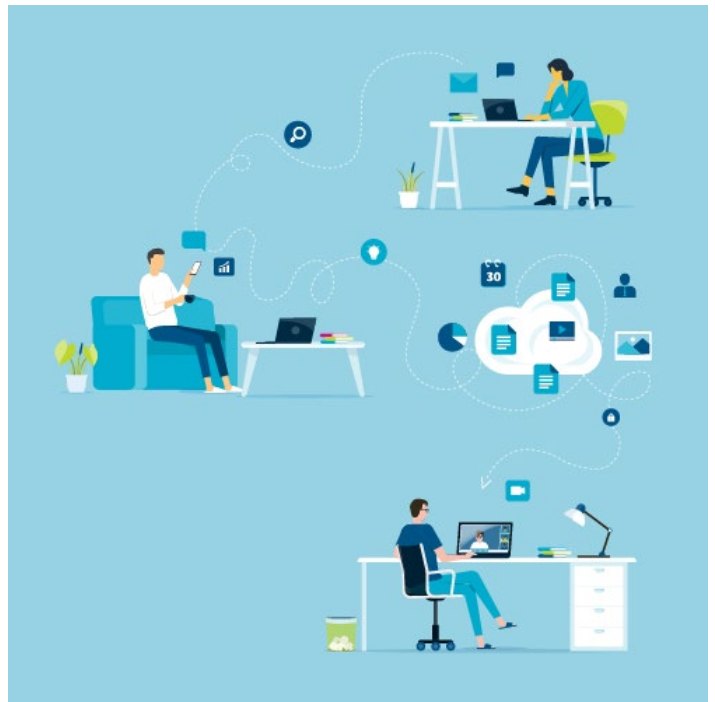


Strategic Sourcing Team Membership

OSD's Sourcing Unit continuously strives to build contracts that fulfill the product and services needs of our diverse buyer communities, and Strategic Sourcing Teams (SST) are an important mechanism for determining what is needed and ensuring the Commonwealth delivers best value.

Tapping into the industry expertise we have within Massachusetts Departments and local government entities is fundamental to identifying the best product and services solutions and drawing in the right complement of vendors. The value provided by SST members with subject-matter expertise and/or purchasing experience cannot be understated, and OSD Contract Managers use this knowledge and partnership to build optimal contracts.

With this arsenal of knowledge, SSTs identify contract needs and specifications, develop the RFR, evaluate vendor responses, and ultimately award the contract. These activities generally take place over six to nine months, with team members meeting once a week for approximately one hour. Sometimes, however, team members only are brought in during certain facets of the sourcing process, so time commitments may vary. SST members continue to support the contract post award, as well; team members are consulted as Contract Managers monitor contract performance and share information that may necessitate contract changes.



As you might have guessed, sourcing activity continues during pandemics. Have you thought about being an SST member? Ideal team members are people willing to share their knowledge and work collaboratively. Perhaps you are able to consider team membership now that sourcing teams have moved exclusively to an online format or your organization's needs or schedules have changed due to COVID-19.

Keep abreast of the state's contract activity through our [Procurement Schedule](#). Express interest in joining an SST by completing our SST form located on our [website](#).