

CALNET Background

The California Integrated Information Network (CALNET 2) Master Service Agreement (MSA) for State agency telecommunications was awarded on January 30, 2007. Services under its predecessor, CALNET 1, ended on December 3, 2008. CALNET 2 consists of four MSAs:

- MSA 1: Voice, Data, & Video Services (AT&T)
- MSA 2: Long Distance & Network Based Services (AT&T)
- MSA 3: Internet Protocol (IP) Voice, Data & Video Services (Verizon Business)
- MSA 4: Broadband Fixed Wireless Access (BFWA), Data Services (Verizon Business)

Who can use the CALNET Master Contract?

Most State agencies are required to use the CALNET 2 Master Contract to purchase mandatory telecommunications network services. However, the contract can also be used by federal agencies, local public entities, and non-profits organizations that have an eligible joint powers agreement. Agencies that use it must abide by all of the terms and conditions of the CALNET 2 Master Contract.

Examples of customers include: state departments and agencies, state colleges universities, counties, cities, schools and community colleges, libraries, special districts (water, fire, etc.).

Why use the CALNET Master Contract?

The contract is able to offer State-of-the-art services and equipment at lower rates based on the collective buying power of the State. This is achieved because CALNET 2 affords vendors a larger customer base than any qualified government purchaser would have alone.

Through the CALNET 2 contract, the State has a consolidated telecommunications network from which most state agencies are required to obtain mandatory services. Agencies can purchase mandatory services directly through the contract with the confidence that all government requirements for competitive bidding have already been met, because this contract is the result of an extensive competitive bidding process.

In addition, staff trained to manage the CALNET 2 Master Contract are available to answer questions, and to provide information and assistance in working with the vendors.

Who is responsible for CALNET?

The Department of General Services is responsible for the development of CALNET 2 and for the procurement of services through the contract. The Department of Technology Services is responsible for the management of CALNET 2 and for assisting state agencies in using the contract.

IT/Telecom Services Procurement in California

History

The responsibility for IT policy, planning, and coordination for State agencies has resided with different entities over the two past decade. Throughout these changes in IT governance, the Department of Finance has retained authority over approval of expenditures and the Department of General Services has retained control of the procurement process.

In 2002, inadequate oversight of statewide IT contracts led the now-defunct Department of Information Technology (DOIT) to approve a contract with the Oracle Corporation, which if executed, would have resulted in costly and unnecessary purchases of database software licenses for the state. Since this experience, the State has struggled to balance the efficiency of large contracts with the need for adequate safeguards.

Current Roles & Responsibilities

Statutory authority for the procurement of information technology goods and services for State government resides with the Department of General Services (DGS). Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 12104 the DGS is required to set forth all policies, procedures, and methods that the DGS will use when soliciting bids for IT procurements in the State Contracting Manual (SCM), Volume 3, including any policies contained in the State Administrative Manual (SAM). The majority of these functions are conducted by the Technology Acquisitions Section of DGS' Procurement Division.

The Department of Technology Services (DTS) was established on July 9, 2005, and provides information technology services to many state, county, federal and local government entities throughout California on a fee-for-service basis. Technology services include application and equipment hosting, storage, computing, networking, and training. DTS provides the technical expertise during the development of MSAs, such as CALNET. Their Statewide Telecommunications and Network Support Division (STND) manages the CALNET 2 contract and provides related support services to customers.

Established by the Legislature in August 2007, the Office of the State Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is responsible for developing and enforcing the state's IT plans, policies, and standards; conducting IT project review, approval, and oversight; and promoting the efficient and effective use of IT in state operations. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is a member of the Governor's Cabinet and advises the Governor on the strategic management of the state's IT resources.