



Category Manager

Department : Procurement

Salary: circa £65K

Location: Newport

Who we are

When you think about it, water is the most basic human need. So what we do at Welsh Water is incredibly important – we give three million customers safe, clean water, take away their dirty water and help to protect our beautiful environment. It's an awesome responsibility, and we have to earn our customers' trust every single day. Being the only not-for-profit company in the water industry is certainly a good start. Every single penny we make goes back into looking after their water and environment, rather than going to the pockets of shareholders.

There has never been a better time to join us as Welsh Water moves into the next five year investment cycle with a busy and exciting programme of business improvement projects including major technology and construction schemes, product innovation and enabling services delivery underpinned by the adoption of new ways of working through LEAN and IT solutions.

What we do

The procurement team in Welsh Water operates across the Retail, Water, Environment, Capital and Corporate business areas. We deliver best in class services to our internal customers, developing and supporting delivery of their procurement strategies, offering professional advice and delivering cost savings through sustainable procurement. We set procurement processes and standards for supplier engagement, monitoring and contract management. We undertake supplier management and support our business users with efficiency purchase to pay systems.

What you will do

Provide leadership for procurement professionals and trainee colleagues to deliver sustainable procurement through cost savings, value and risk management. You will set strategies for establishing and monitoring effective supply chains in your respective area, driving excellence and outstanding performance through ever strengthening relationships. Responsible for delivering procurement led change you will work with a LEAN approach to continually drive improvement. A highly experienced negotiator you will lead on delivering efficiencies through innovative procurement strategies.

What we offer

We know that if our employees are happy, our customers are happy. That's why we offer a great benefits package. Welsh Water is the 5th largest employer in Wales, our reward and benefits package includes:

- Competitive Salary
- 25 days annual leave plus public holidays
- Generous Pension Plan
- Annual Incentive Scheme
- Range of Employee Benefits and discount schemes
- Onsite restaurant and car park

Category Manager IT

Reports to: Head of Procurement Water and Shared Services

Contract: Permanent

Working hours: 37

As part of our Procurement team, you will be expected to achieve our cost reduction targets against a dynamic programme of procurement and contracting initiatives in the field of IT. This will include setting and driving cost efficiency through traditional and agile application solution investments, large scale technology led investments, cloud based software and platform procurements. Working with software providers including SAP, Microsoft and Experian you will also set procurement strategies and lead on procurements for a large range of software hardware and applications providers. The ICT technology category will also include professional resources for technology led projects. You'll do this by working collaboratively with colleagues across the business to ensure commercial and contractual measures are in place. With credibility as a procurement expert, you will work with the Procurement team and commercial teams to become an example of best practice in the procurement of technology based solutions.

What you'll be responsible for

- Developing a category led approach to the establishment of supply chains that are sustainable and deliver to required standards
- Knowledge and experience in placing multiple supplier frameworks with both onshore and offshore resources and working in an Agile project environment to deliver best value and risk management for your clients
- Knowledge and experience in the field of GDPR, Information security, software licensing and managed services contracts.
- Leading the development and strategic management of procurement strategies designed to deliver significant cost and process efficiencies across your specialist area of expertise in the field of ICT procurement.
- Monitor, motivate and manage the delivery of day to day procurement requirements across the category with the procurement department to deliver added value, savings, total cost management, quality and surety of supply.
- Lead the reporting and management of key reporting measures for the IT category across the portfolio of key suppliers.
- Creating a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in a LEAN operating environment. Delivery of change management arising from procurement or LEAN management.
- Setting the standards for best practice procurement including negotiation strategies, process efficiency/compliance management, commercial terms, supplier relationship management, and benchmarking of best practice.
- Manage and reduce commercial risk through a category led approach.
- Lead the delivery of customer procurement objectives to achieve key business objectives
- Motivating, managing and leading a team providing support to identified key customers within Welsh Water.

Category Manager IT

Who you'll work with

Internal

- Senior managers and Heads of Function
- Procurement Team members
- Contract, Commercial, Project and Programme Managers
- Legal Department and Information Security
- Nominated Key Internal Customers

External

- External Contractors and Suppliers
- Cost Managers and Specialist Consultants
- Legal Representatives

About you

Knowledge, Skills and Experience	Essential	Desirable
Proven experience in the field of ICT Procurement including experience of working in an outsourced service model environment and procuring using an agile project lifecycle.	•	
Demonstrable record of technology procurement and proven record the procurement of software, hardware, application development, SaaS,	•	
Member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply	•	
An established negotiator, experienced at managing suppliers and a range of contract terms	•	
Experience of operating under EU procurement law particularly Utilities Contracts Directives		•
An experienced communicator able to interface at multiple business levels including Director level	•	
Experience of drafting and reviewing bespoke terms and conditions including software licensing, services	•	
A demonstrable record of delivering sustainable cost reductions across a range of complex categories	•	
Experienced in setting and delivering procurement and commercial strategy from sourcing through to management of supply chain	•	
Highly developed commercial acumen and numeracy skills	•	
An experienced team leader with proven management capability	•	
A proven decision maker able to demonstrate delivery of business objectives through leading change in a collaborative working environment	•	
An analytical thinker who applies reasoned judgement to the management of business and commercial risk.	•	