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OGS PROCUREMENT TEAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR NATURAL GAS CONTRACT

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner John C. Egan today announced that the agency has received a George Cronin Award for Procurement Excellence for an innovative natural gas contract providing millions in savings to the state. The award was presented on September 22.

OGS won the Bronze Award for innovation stemming from a fixed price aggregate natural gas contract. This initiative targeted OGS' Albany-based, dual-fuel steam facilities that provide the Empire State Plaza and Harriman Office campus with heating and cooling for their vast office environments. The daily cost avoidance of using natural gas, rather than the more costly oil, saved the state approximately \$35,000 per day during the 2008-09 heating season, resulting in a savings of \$1.5 million.

"Being recognized nationally for excellence is an honor, but more important is that OGS-led innovation and creativity are helping Governor Paterson meet the expectations of the taxpayers by finding ways to reduce operational costs," Commissioner Egan said.

The Cronin Awards, presented by the National Association of State Procurement Officers (NASPO), recognize ground-breaking state procurement programs and promote the sharing of ideas between states. Each award is based on the inventiveness of the submission, cost savings, and the ability to be transferred to other governments as a best practice. This is the 12th time OGS has been given a Cronin award since 1990.

NASPO is a non-profit association dedicated to strengthening the procurement community through education, research, and communication. It is made up of central purchasing directors in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States.

This is the second time in recent weeks that OGS has been recognized for its efforts to reduce costs to New York's taxpayers, while providing quality service to state and local governments.

The New York State Forum for Information Resource Management (NYSFIRM) presented the OGS Procurement Services Group a Best Practice award for its information management policies and practices in its effort to reduce the cost of printing for state and local government. OGS was selected for the award based upon an initiative targeting the acquisition and operational costs of office-based printers. The award was presented at the Forum's annual meeting held in Albany.

OGS forecasts that during the next three years, state and local governments will purchase approximately 16,000 printers. As a result of a creative procurement model considering printer acquisition and operating savings, it is estimated that the initiative may save more than \$25 million.

This project was the result of a collaborative effort with state and municipal governments and, in addition to OGS, included the state's Chief Information Officer/Office for Technology, numerous other state agencies, the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and the New York City Department of Education.

The NYSFIRM is a network of state and local government organizations, information technology leaders, and professionals focused on policies associated with information management, technology, and operations.