



## Framework agreement for video interpretation service

Federal Procurement Agency, Austria

- Savings of about 1,798 t greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduction of the travel expenditure of interpreters



### Benchmark Face-to-face-interpreting

- 365 t CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions/year
- 114 toe energy/year

### GPP 2020 tender video interpreting

- 6 t CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions/year
- 3 toe energy/year

### Results

- Savings of 1,798 t CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 5 years
- Savings of 555 toe energy in 5 years

## Contract tendered

- Tender for video interpretation service. Within up to 2 minutes, the staff of hospitals, police, legal authorities, etc. can contact via internet an interpreter. The service works with different kinds of hardware like desktop computers, notebooks, tablet-computers or smartphones. The service requires a special software for video interpreting and a network of several hundred interpreters.
- Tender of the Federal Procurement Agency, Austria
- Framework agreement for video interpretation service in Austria with one supplier
- Period: Dec. 2015 - Dec. 2020 = 60 months
- Total volume: 30 Million Euro (without VAT)

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## Procurement approach

A competitive procedure with negotiation and prior public announcement was chosen.

The tender of the video interpretation service did not include environmental criteria. The service video interpreting itself is assessed environmental friendly. The video interpreting does not require any travelling expenditures by the interpreters like in the case of conventional interpreting, where the interpreter has to be physically present. However, video interpreting has a carbon footprint, too. Electronic appliances, server rooms (electricity consumption for servers and for the cooling) and communication infrastructure are necessary. The environmental impact of video interpreting is lower than the travelling expenditures (see below).

## Results

	CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions	Energy consumption
GPP 2020 tender	5.7 t CO <sub>2</sub> e/year	3.1 toe/year
Benchmark	365.2 t CO <sub>2</sub> e/year	114.0 toe/year
Annual savings	359.5 t CO <sub>2</sub> e/year	111.0 toe/year
Total savings	1,797.6 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	554.8 toe

### Calculation basis

- We assume that during the 60 months contract period, 15,249,000 minutes of interpreting are provided.
- We further assume that the length of a call is in average 11.5 minutes. Thus, during the 60 months contract period, the service video interpreting is provided 1,326,000 times in total and 265,200 times per year.
- For the assessment of the environmental impact of the service, we assume that in 50 % of all cases where video interpreting is purchased, a conventional interpreting service would have otherwise been purchased. We further assume that in the other 50 % of cases, no interpreting service would have been purchased. We assume that in the conventional interpreting service, the interpreter had to travel 20 km (10 km each way) with a diesel-car that uses 5.0 l/100 km.
- The following assumptions are made for the video call per internet:  
The two electronic appliances that are necessary to perform the video call have a power input of 80 watt. This results in an electricity consumption for the electronic appliances of **0.0307 kWh per call**.  
The bandwidth of a video call is 300 kbit/s. In a video call that lasts 11.5 minutes, 51.75 MB of data are transferred. According to the study „Centre for energy-efficient tele-communications“ (The power of wireless cloud, University of Melbourne, 2013) the transformation of 1 GB consumes around 2 kWh in the data center. This results in an electricity consumption of **0.1035 kWh per call**.  
Without taking the energy consumption of the communication infrastructure (like the mobile telephone poles) into account, the electricity consumption of a video call is **0.1342 kWh**.
- The emission factor for the Austrian electricity mix is 0.161 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh.



## Lessons learned

Especially at the level of public procurers from federal agencies like ministries we currently perceive an attitudinal change. Clients of the Federal Procurement Agency (BBG) increasingly pay attention to and demand innovative and ecological products. This conclusion can be drawn due to the amount of potential clients for video interpretation.

The implementation of new procurement approaches demands specific know-how. The Federal Procurement Agency (BBG) supports their clients when it comes to the implementation of innovative projects through knowledge and experience concerning innovation procurement and sustainable procurement. However, one of the biggest challenges regarding this tender was reporting of binding needs.

## Contract

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## About GPP 2020



GPP 2020 aims to mainstream low-carbon procurement across Europe in support of the EU's goals to achieve a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% increase in the share of renewable energy and a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020.

To this end, GPP 2020 will implement more than 100 low-carbon tenders, which will directly result in substantial CO<sub>2</sub> savings. Moreover, GPP 2020 is running a capacity building programme that includes trainings and exchange. – [www.gpp2020.eu](http://www.gpp2020.eu)



## About PRIMES



Across six countries in Europe; Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Croatia, France and Italy, PRIMES project seeks to help municipalities overcome barriers in GPP processes, many of which lack capacity and knowledge.

PRIMES aims to develop basic skills and provide hands-on support for public purchasing organisations in order to overcome barriers and implement Green Public Purchasing. This will consequently result in energy savings and CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. – [www.primes-eu.net](http://www.primes-eu.net)



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