



## Commercial Platforms Proof of Concept Guide

In Summer 2020, GSA launched the [Commercial Platforms](#) proof of concept to GSA SmartPay® Purchase Card (GPC) holders, providing access to **multiple e-marketplace platforms** for purchases of commercial products within the micro-purchase threshold. The proof of concept enables GSA to demonstrate the viability of a government-wide approach to online buying with the goals of:

- **Modernizing** the commercial product buying experience.
- **Streamlining** commercial item purchasing to help agencies focus on mission-oriented acquisition.
- **Analyzing** commercial item spend data to enable better buying decisions.

The proof of concept is open to GPC holders from participating agencies. *Click [here](#) to find out if your agency is participating.* GPC holders from participating agencies are encouraged to use the program’s e-marketplace platforms for purchases of commercial products typically made from consumer websites up to the micro-purchase threshold (MPT) and must follow existing SmartPay [purchase card policies](#) before purchasing (see [FAR 13.2](#) and [13.301](#) and consult your agency champion for additional guidance). The [GSA SmartPay® Government Purchase Card \(GPC\)](#) is the authorized method of payment for purchases on the awarded e-marketplace platforms.

## Awarded E-Marketplace Platforms



## With business-to-business capabilities, to include:

- A modern, streamlined buying experience
- Choice across a large pool of suppliers and products
- Pricing benefits (B2B discounts, tiered pricing, bulk discounts)
- Supports mandatory source purchasing through the AbilityOne program
- Facilitates small business purchasing
- Enhanced data visibility and key insights into online purchases
- Implementation of Supply Chain Risk Management requirements, to include restricting access to debarred vendors, a focus on counterfeit prevention, and support for Section 889.
- Standardized terms and conditions through a whole-of-government approach

## Features and Capabilities

Purchasing through the awarded e-marketplace platforms will follow the typical micro-purchase buying rules. Through the Commercial Platforms program, you'll find a streamlined purchasing process, providing ease of access across key areas of importance.

## Easy Access to Mandatory Sources and Small Business Suppliers



### AbilityOne

Buyers must purchase products on the [Procurement List](#) from an AbilityOne participating nonprofit agency. For more information on how to purchase these products, review the [AbilityOne Guide](#).

### Small Business

Buyers need to consider items manufactured or supplies by small businesses. Participating e-marketplace platforms have filters to help easily identify small business suppliers.

### UNICOR

Buyers must comply with [FAR 8.6](#) regarding priorities for use of UNICOR (in excess of \$3,500). Please follow your internal agency policy.



## Supply Chain Risk Management Implementation

- Restricting sales to any excluded vendor listed on SAM.gov
- Incorporation of Section 889, Part A and B, in the e-marketplace contracts, for the platform providers themselves as offerors (*Note: please see program website for additional information on Section 889 implementation*)
- Leveraging existing commercial practices to combat counterfeiting and better manage supply chain risk through proactive tools and processes
- Ongoing monitoring of post-purchase spend data to identify suspect purchases and ensuring proper education of buyers (and platforms) to prevent in the future

## Enhanced Market Research Capabilities

- Access to a wide range of product categories and detailed product information
- Easy to use product filters highlighting environmental attributes, small business, mandatory sources, and more
- Competitive pricing across thousands of suppliers
- Product reviews from consumer buyers (*NOTE: Please don't post product ratings / vendor reviews, however you are welcome to consider the existing reviews during market research*)

## Simplified Order Placement and Closeout

- Automatic Tax Exemption
- Ability to document competitive review/price reasonableness during checkout
- Speedy Delivery
- Simplified Order Tracking

---

## Contact Us!



**Web:** Visit us for up-to-date program information and training opportunities at [www.gsa.gov/commercialplatforms](http://www.gsa.gov/commercialplatforms)



**Email:** Contact us with questions at [section846@gsa.gov](mailto:section846@gsa.gov)



**GSA FEDERAL MARKETPLACE  
STRATEGY**  
Commercial Platforms