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...WHERE B2B MANAGERS MEET AND LEARN

Fast Facts: Popular Digital Purchasing Tools in the U.S.

During our research, we asked purchasing and supply managers to name the digital tools they used to perform a variety of tasks. The list below provides the names of tools, software, and applications that we heard most frequently. Please note that there are many, many other tools, software, and applications available for each category. We do not endorse the use of any of those listed below and encourage visitors to research the alternatives and select those that best meet the requirements of their companies.

Task

Scouting for Emerging Trends & Technologies

Search for Suppliers & Products

Examples of Popular Tools

Online Resources from Trade Associations

Online Professional Communities such as:

- LinkedIn Professional Groups
- NAEP
- Procurious
- BMP

Supplier e-Mails on New Products and Technologies

Online Market Reports such as:

- Institute for Supply Management *Report on Business*®
- Wall Street Journal Supply Chain & Logistics News
- Harvard Business School Working Knowledge
- The McKinsey Quarterly

Search Engines such as Google

Online Professional Communities such as:

- LinkedIn Professional Groups
- NAEP
- Procurious
- BMP

Online Catalogues such as:

- Thomasnet.com
- Amazon Business

Tradeshows (digital and real world)

Supplier Legal & Financial Risk Assessment

Risk & Credit Assessment Sites such as:

- Dun & Bradstreet Risk & Supply Management
- RapidRatings
- MetricStream

Supplier Risk Monitoring

Supply Chain Risk Management Services such as:

- riskmethods

Supplier Certification & Compliance Evaluations

ISO 9000 Certification of Quality Practices:

- International Organization for Standardization
- American Society for Quality

Compliance Management Services such as:

- MetricStream Supplier Compliance Management
- ZenGRC
- Thomas Reuters Compliance Management

Supplier Sustainability Practices & Green Products

Sustainability Rating & Ranking Systems such as:

- Bloomberg ESG Disclosure Scores
- Newsweek Green Ratings
- Sustainalytics
- Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes

Evaluations of Alternative Suppliers & Products

Internal, Vendor Scorecards such as:

- Internal, Company Software & Systems
- VendOp Online System
- SAP-Ariba Supplier Performance Management

External, Supplier/Product Review Sites such as:

- VendOp
- G2 Crowd

Online Professional Communities such as:

- LinkedIn Professional Groups
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Price Comparison Sites such as:

- Americomms
- PriceItHere.com
- stockinthechannel.com
- AllBusiness

Total Cost of Ownership Calculators such as:

- TCO Toolkit
- Amazon Web Services

Supplier Websites including:

- Financial & Compliance Information
- Quality & Delivery Reliability Statistics
- Product Data Sheets

Transaction Management

- Demonstration Videos
- Case Studies
- Testimonials

Electronic RFPs, RFQs, such as:

- Aestiva
- Xeeva
- Tradogram

Strategic Sourcing & Procurement Systems

- SAP-Ariba
- AMT
- eBid Systems

Electronic Buying, Ordering, & Payment

- SAP-Ariba Buying & Order Processing
- Amazon Business
- eCatalogues (customer or supplier systems)
- Supply Management Contracts
- Procure-to-Pay Software Suites
- Supply-to-Pay Software Suites
- Internal ERP Systems

Supplier Management

Vendor Scorecards & Performance Assessment

Spend Analysis

Strategic Lifecycle Management

- SAP-Ariba
- Tipalti
- VendorInsight