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# Helping with procurement

- CERN has been discussing with the EC, in the context of its Helix Nebula activities, about support for the procurement of IT products and services by the public sector.
- It is our understanding that the EC intends to publish details of a funding call, ICT-8, in November 2014 with a deadline for submission of April 2015.
- It is our belief that the ICT-8 call could offer an opportunity for EU-T0 to gain support from the EC for the procurement of state-of-the-art hardware.
- The proposal should focus on preparing and executing a cross-national procurement process linked to the foreseen upgrades of the EU-T0 sites across Europe.
- It would imply the sites agreeing to a common procurement technical specification and committing to procure for a stated amount.
  - The EC would then provide an additional 20% to supplement the procurement engagement.
- An important innovation that EU-T0 could bring would be to consider specifications that are compatible with the open compute project (<http://www.opencompute.org/>) and show how this cross-national procurement model could be a model for ESFRI research infrastructure in different disciplines.