



GSA launches The Global Sourcing Standard

The Global Accreditation Programme for buyers and suppliers of sourcing services aims to improve skills and competencies, and help organisations work more effectively

The Global Sourcing Association (GSA) announces the launch of the **Global Sourcing Standard**, a unified view of global industry best practice that organisations in sourcing on both the buy side and provider side can be accredited to.

The Standard has been 8 years in the making, and is a significant development towards the GSA's vision of a unified sourcing industry operating to a single global standard of practice. It started off as a Life Cycle model, evolving into a Corporate Accreditation programme for buy-side companies and now today is a Standard critiqued by over 200 organisations, to which both buyers and service providers across the world can be accredited.

To ensure market intelligence and oversight of its ongoing development, the Standard will be supported by the creation of a globally supported **Standards Advisory Group**, comprising leaders of international sourcing associations, government trade bodies and major buyers, providers and sourcing advisory organisations in the sourcing world.

Kerry Hallard, President of the Global Sourcing Association and CEO of the GSA-UK said –

“Establishing a Standard that enables buyers and service providers to both review their own practice and explore their alignment with each other has been something many practitioners in the industry have been requesting from us for a number of years and we are pleased to be able to offer a programme that does just that.”

The Standard is both robust and wholly comprehensive, and is strengthened further by being underpinned by a specially developed Competencies and Capabilities Framework, Sourcing Industry Code of Conduct and a Framework for Transparency Principles. So far, the Global Sourcing Standard has received overwhelming international support, with numerous leaders of outsourcing associations signing up to support the ongoing development of the Programme. These include Russia, India, China, Poland, Bulgaria, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, South Africa and Egypt. Many more have lined up to have further discussions.

Governments with a vested interest in the sourcing industry have also welcomed the initiative. Bodijar Loukarsky, the Minister for Economy in Bulgaria said –

"In Bulgaria, the sourcing community is passionate about delivering service excellence for its clients and their customers so we strongly support the efforts of the GSA on raising professional standards across the industry. The introduction of a global standard of best practice across all stages of the sourcing life cycle can only bring benefit to both buyers and suppliers, as it will drive efficiencies and innovation as well as improve partnership relationships."

The accreditation process is a series of self-assessment surveys that cover the 4 phases of the Life Cycle. They allow companies to compare and contrast their own practice against the model and later obtain accreditation against one or more of the phases at one of 3 levels of attainment – Established, Merit, Leading.

The GSA Accreditation will assure stakeholders of best practice by

- Helping to standardise sourcing processes across multiple programmes and functions, and comparing and contrasting them based on a growing repository of best practices
- Ensuring the entire sourcing process is documented and ingrained in the organisational memory
- Identifying the health of the relationship with sourcing partners, and helping with realignment of expectations of the relationship.
- Ensuring attainment of consistency across global delivery

The process is supported by a web-based software application. This enables an organisation to carry out surveys of its sourcing practices across its entire organisation, or indeed discrete parts of its organisation, and gain a holistic view of how it manages these activities.

Chris Halward, Director for Global Standards, said -

"Organisations obtaining an accreditation from the GSA will be making a clear statement of their commitment to sourcing best practice, which will no doubt enhance their public and industry profile and reputation. Adopting the process will deliver greater levels of confidence to stakeholders, regulators and end users of their services that the organisation is managing its service provider activities and risks effectively."

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About the Global Sourcing Standard

The Global Sourcing Association (GSA) has been championing best practice in the sourcing industry since 1987. The Global Sourcing Standard (Standard) is recognised by organisations around the world as an important and effective framework for outsourcing best practice. It informed the development of the ISO standard 37500 for Outsourcing and it is aligned with other relevant ISO standards.

The Standard is subject to ongoing review by practitioners from across the sourcing industry who provide feedback on how the model needs to change to reflect current practice. The GSA also continues to review other standards, particularly those that are developed by the International Standards Organisation, to ensure that the Global Sourcing Standard is aligned to best practices. As a result, the Global Sourcing Standard provides a dynamic standard for sourcing practitioners and organisations, both buyers and suppliers.

About the GSA

The Global Sourcing Association (GSA) is the industry association and professional body for the

global sourcing industry, and home of the **Global Sourcing Standard**. Its overriding objective is the ongoing development and dissemination of the Standard and supporting portfolio of qualifications in order to improve the benefits from, and positive reputation and therefore size of, the global sourcing industry.

The GSA also serves to share best practice, trends and connections across the globe and to bring the global community together in a wholly interactive manner for the first time. **The Global Sourcing Association UK**, also known as **GSA-UK**, was formerly known as the National Outsourcing Association in the UK.

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