

MEDIA RELEASE
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Utility Purchasing Management Group (UPMG) Kicks Off its Sixth Annual Supply Chain Benchmarking Study

The Utility Purchasing Management Group, a non-profit organization, is proud to announce the kick-off of its 2009 UPMG Supply Chain Benchmarking Study. The UPMG has conducted this study annually since 2004 in its continuing effort to provide members with the tools and knowledge they need to be successful in this ever-changing and competitive business environment. Since its inception, the study has attracted a wide variety of companies in terms of size from all parts of the country. This year twenty-two utilities have signed on to participate, and others may be accepted into the group.

The study targets eleven Supply Chain business categories with over 100 metrics that focus on operational activities critical to evaluating performance. Additionally, the study includes a discussion section where participants can submit specific Supply Chain related topics they would like addressed. The table summarizes the type of information that is addressed in the study.

Participants receive a comprehensive report that allows them to compare their performance against the others in the study. The report contains over one hundred-thirty pages of information presented graphically by category. While participants know the names of every company in the study, charts are coded so that each participant knows its code, but not that of the others. If a company wants to discuss information contained in the study with one of the other participants, that request can be accommodated through the study facilitator.

Category	Number of Metrics
Demographics	7
Purchasing	12
Savings and Cost Avoidance	6
Procurement Card Utilization	6
Supplier Performance	9
Supplier Diversity	7
Procurement Cycle Time	3
Warehousing	20
Materials Management	23
On-Time Delivery	2
Accounts Payable	12
Discussion	Varies

Lastly, participants in the study are eligible to attend a half-day benchmarking working session on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, following the annual UPMG Conference to be held in Washington D.C, September 20-22, 2009 (visit www.upmg.org for more information on the conference). The half-day benchmarking session serves as an opportunity to broaden networking relationships and a way to address any specific report topics that are particularly important to the study participants.

For more information about the UPMG Supply Chain Study for 2009, please Jack Cusack, 516-426-7697. You can also visit the benchmark website at <http://upmg.aegonline.com>.

For more information on the Utility Purchasing Management Group, please contact Philip Arbuckle at 913-768-7005 or email info@upmg.org or info@upmg.com or visit www.upmg.org.