There are a variety of purchasing consortia and cooperative agreements that can both streamline the purchasing process and yield lower costs. However, appropriate due diligence is still required when participating in these agreements. The following steps outline a GA-endorsed process the campus can use to correctly interact with these consortia.

1. **Identify Agreement**
   - Review and find appropriate option. Example consortia are:
     - E&I
     - NIPA
     - NJPA
     - US Communications
     - Internet2 Net+ ...

2. **Competitive quotes**
   - Solicit 2-3 competitive quotes from vendors covered under some/all of these agreements
   **NOTE:** Appropriate reviews and approvals within the workflow above is still required

3. **RFQ**
   - Conduct a Request for Quote to obtain official pricing and formally establish the terms and conditions to govern the agreement

4. **Contract**
   - Award the RFQ to the desired vendor, thereby establishing a contract for the product/service.

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(a) https://tinyurl.com/unc-it-approval
(b) https://tinyurl.com/nc-contract-review