Ohio State University | Comprehensive Energy Management Project, USA

The creation of Ohio State Energy Partners, a joint venture with Engie North America and Axium Infrastructure, includes $1bn in upfront consideration and is the largest single investment in the school’s academic mission in its 147-year history. The project will seek to modernize the university’s 485-building Columbus campus, create substantial academic benefits and establish a major center for energy research and technology commercialization. The transaction provides Ohio State with the resources to enhance its position as a leading higher education institution in energy sustainability and propels the university towards achieving its goal of improving energy efficiency by 25% within the next 10 years.

The judges praised the groundbreaking approach combining P3 and utility models to generate upfront proceeds and long-term risk transfer for the university. They considered this deal to be a model for other universities and procurement agencies to consider, combining different models to achieve their objectives. They hailed it as an important pathfinder project for the industry.

The P3 Bulletin Special Award is given to a project that impressed the team with its innovation and partnership working.

The winner of this special award was chosen for its groundbreaking structure and potential to open the market for new projects in this sector. The team described the project as “a clear winner” for its refreshing approach to procurement and its example of how partnership working can produce outstanding projects.