



All of us at NWUPC hope everyone had an enjoyable festive break and we wish you all a Happy New Year.

Efficient and effective procurement is likely to be even more prominent in the coming twelve months which will see the establishment of a new UUK body following the recent UUK report on efficiency and effectiveness in UK HE. It will probably be called Procurement UK and will seek to take up and extend the role of the now disbanded UUK Strategic Procurement Group. NWUPC has already, working with its sister consortia in England, further developed the breadth and depth of its collaborative procurement activities as well as expanding the number of regional and cross regional agreements for members. Value for money will be in the spotlight as we move to the new funding arrangements in HE and NWUPC will ensure we play our part in supporting our members during what may be an interesting year.

All the operational terms of reference (TORs) have been reviewed after the consultation on how people felt the Consortium could improve last summer. The new TORs have been issued and will come into effect later this month – if anyone has any comments on these contact me asap. One agreed result of the review was changes to the number and days of some commodity group meetings – see below. The Consortium relies on the support and commitment of its member institutions and their representatives on these groups and we want to ensure that they operate so as to provide maximum benefit for minimum cost to all our HEIs.

Best Wishes to you all

Paul Tomany - Managing Director

Contracting Update

High Value Laboratory Equipment

The six agreements have been awarded and details are available on our website and also on GeM. These agreements started on the 1st December 2011 and run until the 31st July 2013 with the option to extend for a further 2 x 1 year periods. The agreements are for:

- Diffraction Apparatus
- MRI Scanners
- Scanning Electron Microscopes
- Sequencers
- Transmission Electron Microscopes
- NMR Mass Spectrometers

A.V. Consumables

The current agreement has been extended until the 31st March 2012. The new agreement has been advertised and will start on the 1st April 2012.

PPI Envelopes

The closing date for the potential suppliers to return their tender submission is the 9th January 2012. The new agreement will be in place to commence on the 1st March 2012.

Cleaning Chemicals and Janitorial Supplies

The new Framework Agreement is scheduled to start on the 1st March 2012; the current agreement which was due to end on 31st December 2011 has been extended until 29th February with the incumbent suppliers to cover this period.

AV Equipment and Installations

The current agreement has been extended by two months until the 29th February 2012 as the analysis for the new tender has yet to be completed.

Bedding/Bathroom Textiles Accommodation Packs and Window Coverings

We have agreed with the suppliers to extend this agreement for an additional one year period until the 31st December 2012.

NWUPC Parabilis User Group

Members of the group held their inaugural meeting at Keele University on 13th December 2011, chaired by Linda Sutton. The meeting was very useful and discussed areas specifically related to the NWUPC users which are to be taken to the Supplier Adoption Team. The group will be working to determine the current status of the adoption of suppliers used by NWUPC members and also ways to implement our future requirements.

If you have any queries to raise with the group or issues you would like us to consider then please contact Helen Dodd-Williams on helen.dodd-williams@manchester.ac.uk

CPD Programme 2012

January the 18th sees our CPD session covering Sales Techniques and Understanding the Sales Process at the University of Chester. This session is aimed at professionals who deal with sales people and personnel from supplier organisations on a regular basis. It is ideal for delegates of all levels and assumes no previous experience of sales methods and techniques.

NWUPC Conference

Our Annual Conference this year will be returning to the University of Chester and will be held on Tuesday 3rd April.

As always, there will be a varied programme for delegates covering procurement related topics and a supplier exhibition with suppliers from across all commodity areas. The Conference is FREE to NWUPC members, further details about the event will be sent out in the near future.

Commodity Groups

At our Furniture Meeting at the end of November we were delighted to be invited as guests of one of our suppliers, Broadstock Office Furniture in Macclesfield. Our thanks go to Neil Harrison from Broadstock for a very warm welcome and an extremely interesting day – especially the tour of the factory and warehousing facilities. I'm sure that the whole group enjoyed the day out and found it extremely informative.

We also welcomed the new representative for Manchester Met, Ahmer Ashraf, to the group and look forward to seeing him at future meetings.

Following the strategy review it was proposed that future meetings are streamlined and members voted in favour of reducing the number from 3 to 2 and switching one of the meetings (possibly the autumn one) from a Friday to Wednesday in the hope that this will improve attendance. Our Chair Kathy Houghton is working closely with suppliers to arrange future visits to their premises as well as in-house presentations.

The final meeting of 2011 was the Telecomms at Bolton where it was incredibly encouraging to see such a great turn-out. The group seems to be enjoying resurgence of popularity and along with the anticipated resurrection of the National Telecoms Group in 2012; the future does indeed look bright (although not entirely Orange!!).

The 2 year funded position for the National Working Party Administrator has come to an end. At the last ENP meeting it was decided that the National Working Parties will be serviced by administrators from their own consortium.

Brenda Hird will now be helping Andy Wojchiechowski with the NWUPC Conference and COUP 13.

Emma George has been on maternity leave and on 9th December, gave birth to 7lb 4oz Poppy Nichola George. The baby was actually due on 11/11/11 and this name was suggested to Emma because of the landmark Remembrance date.