



Welcome to the April issue of our newsletter. It covers updates on the contracting team's activities; CPD sessions, NVQ availability and commodity groups. If you require additional details regarding any items contained in this newsletter, please contact any member of staff.

## **Contracting Update**

### **Furniture**

The second stage evaluation procedure is currently being completed, and the agreement will be available to members on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

### **Fixed Wire Testing**

This agreement has now been advertised, and the closing date for the return of the PQQ stage is the 16 April 2010.

### **Examination Answer Books**

The PQQ evaluation has now been completed, and the second stage ITT documents will be issued to the suppliers that have successfully completed the PQQ stage.

### **Toilet Tissue and Related Products**

The framework for toilet tissue has now been advertised using the restricted procedure. The PQQ's are due to be returned by the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010, with nearly 30 expressions of interest so far.

### **Review Meetings**

Review meetings have been held for the Bedding & Window Coverings, Cleaning Chemicals and Janitorial Supplies framework agreements. Thank you to all those who completed a feedback questionnaire, they proved very useful in providing feedback to suppliers and contributed to successful review meetings.

## **CPD Sessions**

### **Finance for Buyers**

This session is presented by Keith Dyer, and is being held on the 28 April at the University of Salford. The session will help delegates understand what to look for in financial terms, and help them to understand the key elements of financial data. The session is taught sympathetically in an easy to understand format, any number-phobic delegates do not need to worry !

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## HE Collaborative Groups Workshop

There is a one day workshop on furthering collaborative procurement organised by the UUK Strategic Procurement Group. It is being held on the 29 April 2010 in Chancellors Conference Centre at the University of Manchester.

## NWUPC Board Meeting

The Board carried out a three yearly review of its effectiveness at its March meeting. It was pleased to report the result was mainly positive, although in these changing times it will continue to review progress against our strategy on a regular basis.

## Commodity Group Update

Group Members recently voted in favour of changing the name of the Administration and Professional Services Group to Heads of Procurement. This was felt to more accurately reflect the function of the Group and the change will take immediate effect.

The first Board of Directors meeting of 2010 was held in the prestigious new offices of the Purchasing Consortium. It is now almost four months since we made the move into Manchester city centre and furniture for the new premises was procured through our Office Furniture contract. Future Board Meetings will be held in the NWUPC offices which will substantially reduce previous costs incurred in hiring an outside venue.

We are delighted to announce that Computer Disposals Ltd of Warrington have reached the finals of the Green IT Awards 2009. The IT Group is very happy with the excellent service provided by CDL who are richly deserving of this award. Please be kind enough to take a few seconds to vote by clicking on the following link <http://www.greenitawards.com/> Closing date for voting is 12<sup>th</sup> April and the winners will be announced at the Earth Day Awards Ceremony on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at London Zoo.

## National Working Party Administrators

The new National Working Party Administrators are Rosemary Hills based at SUPC and Brenda Hird based at NWUPC. The Administrators will be setting up meetings for the National Working Parties, arranging venues, taking minutes and uploading these onto the websites. Their other duties include updating and maintaining distribution lists and uploading documents onto websites.

The Groups have welcomed the administrative support offered and good relationships are being built.

## Congratulations to our own Angela Wilson

Angela has successfully completed her "Managing Safely" Qualification approved and validated by IOSH. Paul Tomany is delighted Angela has gained her qualification, adding "The Consortium seeks to have expertise in all the areas that it operates in including internal issues – The whole NWUPC team and I congratulate Angela on her success."

## Budget News

Finally, it was announced in the budget that HE will receive some new funding including £20m to help make efficiency savings by 'sharing services and cutting overheads' hopefully some of this may find its way into some procurement initiatives.