



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

AV Installations

The first sub group meeting for the renewal of the Audio Visual Installations and Audio Visual Equipment framework agreements took place on the 22nd March. The new tender will be advertised using the restricted procedure, with 2 lots, Lot 1 – AV equipment supply only and lot 2 AV equipment supply and installation.

The group looked through pre qualification draft documents and discussed the way forward. The group will meet again on the 11th April, to finalise the pre qualification documents and work on the 'Real Rooms Exercise' for the AV Installations lot. Members involved are Trevor Byrne (University of Manchester) Paul Bossons (Staffordshire University) Max Fossard (Liverpool John Moores University) David Evans (University of Chester) Keith Parkinson (UCLan) and Andre Davies (University of Salford). The NWUPC would like to take the opportunity thank the group in advance for all their hard work.

The agreement is scheduled to start on the 1st January 2012.

Sanitary Disposals and related products and supplies

The return date for the Sanitary Disposals pre qualification questionnaires was the 28th March and six PQQ returns have been received. Work will start shortly on the analysis of these returns with a sub group meeting on the 10th May to analyse the customer requirements. This framework agreement has been opened up nationally and is due to commence on the 1st August 2011.

White Goods

The PQQ for White Goods and Associated Electrical Appliances was advertised on Monday 21st March 2011 with a closing date for this stage of 26th April 2011. This is a national agreement involving all the FE and HE consortia. So far we have had 7 expressions of interest. With a view to trying to attract more varied suppliers to the agreement we have contacted several of the large high street retailers - Comet do seem keen to work with us. Following on from the evaluation of the PQQ stage the ITT will be going on to shortlisted suppliers on the 31st May. We shall be awarding on the 2nd August with a view to starting the agreement on the 1st September 2011.

Lift Consultancy

The Lift Consultancy analysis for the PQQ stage has taken place and we will be sending out the ITTs to the shortlisted supplier's week commencing 28th March 2011. We were successful in getting 7 submissions from interested companies. The ITTs will be returned mid May with a view to awarding at the beginning of June and starting the new Framework Agreement on the 1st July 2011.

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Maintenance

Following feedback from our Estates Commodity Group, we are to tender this new area for NWUPC members. Work has started on the agreement and a tender working party is currently being formed. We intend to advertise the PQQ stage on the 18th May with a return date of 17th June and an award date of 16th September.

It is our intention to have this agreement in place on 1st November 2011.

Commitment forms will be issued shortly, so if you have any suppliers you would like us to bear in mind or if you have anything you would like to be included in the Agreement then please contact Helen Dodd-Williams on helen.dodd-williams@manchester.ac.uk

NWUPC Annual Conference

The Conference is fast approaching and we are pleased to announce the full programme for the day. Workshops planned include updates on sustainable procurement and contract law as well as sessions which focus on personal development.

The supplier exhibition has now sold out and we are delighted with the range of suppliers exhibiting at the Conference, some of them for the first time. The Conference is the perfect opportunity to meet with the suppliers and find out about the latest developments. A full list of the suppliers exhibiting can be found on the NWUPC website.

The Conference will take place on Wednesday 20th April and is **FREE** to attend. If you would like to attend, please could we ask that you pre-register; this will help with planning and ensure the event runs smoothly. Full details including the registration form and Conference Programme can be found on the NWUPC website www.nwupc.ac.uk.

CPD Sessions

Our next CPD session is the 'Introduction to Procurement' which is being held on the 5th May 2011. The session is intended for those who are new to procurement and want to gain a basic understanding of the role of the buyer, procurement tools and techniques and the benefits that good procurement practices can bring to their institution.

NVQs

The Supply Chain Management NVQ continues at levels 2, 3, 4, and 5, further information can be obtained by contacting David Lamb at david.lamb@liverpool.ac.uk

Commodity Groups

The recent Furniture Group Meeting was held in the prestigious surroundings of the Lancaster House Hotel on the university campus and there was an excellent turn out on the day. It also marked the occasion of Kathy Houghton's first meeting as Chair. We are grateful to Kathy for agreeing to Chair the group and her first meeting was a great success. We were also happy to welcome Mark Miller from Edge Hill to his first commodity group.

Our final meeting for the spring term was Telecomms at Edge Hill where we held a conference call with representatives from Buying Solutions who manage the Telecomms Land and Mobile Tariffs framework. As there is some uncertainty over the future strategy of Buying Solutions we are keen to improve the links with them to ensure continuity of cover for members' needs.

At this meeting the Chairman acknowledged the contribution to the group of Karen Bradshaw, Telecommunications Manager from Manchester Metropolitan University who will be taking early retirement at the end of March. Karen has been a long standing member of the group and her contribution to meetings will be sadly missed. We wish her well for the future.