



Welcome to the June 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

Examination Answer Books

The evaluation of the ITT stage is now underway, and when completed the framework agreement will be awarded and implemented, details will be circulated via our website and email.

Photographic Equipment and Consumables

Review meetings were held on the 27th May 2010 for the Photographic Equipment and Consumables framework. Suppliers were encouraged to market the agreement and raise their profiles.

Sanitary Disposal

PHS will be reducing pricings by 5% as of the 1st August for both existing and new customers. The buyers guide and NWUPC website will be updated shortly to reflect these cost savings with details circulated via email.

Water Coolers

The SNUPI / TUCO Purchasing water coolers framework has now been awarded and commenced on the 3rd May 2010. There are 6 suppliers on the framework which covers both plumbed in and bottled water dispensers. Please see the NWUPC website for further details.

Creditsafe

We have adopted the NEUPC supplier financial reporting agreement with Creditsafe. This is a more cost effective method of allowing our members to check on their supplier's financial standing (details have been circulated to members). NWUPC will still continue to monitor all the suppliers on all our framework agreements on a quarterly basis, and we will advise members regarding any suppliers that appear at risk.

Suppliers Exhibition

NWUPC are pleased to announce that they will be attending the University of Liverpool Suppliers Exhibition on the 22nd June 2010.

CPD Sessions

Leadership for Managers

Our CPD session in June is Leadership for Managers, presented by Jenny Radcliffe at the University of Chester. The session is designed to help you be a more effective leader whether the team you lead is internal to your organisation or external such as suppliers or subcontractors.

Contract Management

Looking further ahead, our first session in July is being held on the 1st, at the University of Liverpool, and is presented by Shirley Lewington. The course is aimed at those who are involved in managing contracts, and will cover, contract handover, managing the agreed performance, contract changes and delivering additional value from the contract.

Commodity Groups

At the Consortium we're used to our fair share of hot air and explosive situations but even the most hardnosed Purchasing Professional was unable to negotiate with an angry volcano in full flow. Thanks to the ash cloud we were forced to relocate our planned AV meeting at Queen's Belfast to the slightly more accessible University of Manchester. And although we were disappointed at having to cancel our trip across the water, our thanks go out to Trevor Byrne at Manchester for stepping into the breach and offering to host the meeting in the Council Chamber on Sackville Campus. As always we enjoyed a very productive meeting and saw an encouraging turnout.

From time to time we are lucky enough to be invited to hold Commodity Group Meetings at our suppliers' premises, and on Wednesday 26th May the Catering Group enjoyed a visit to the Dudsons China Factory in Tunstall, Staffordshire. We followed in the footsteps of such esteemed visitors as Her Majesty The Queen, The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall and the Duke of Kent. Dudsons were the perfect hosts and at the end of the meeting we were treated to a very interesting and informative tour of the factory to see how a lump of clay ends up as the china plate on our dinner tables. We also welcomed Jonathan Whittle from RNCM as the new Chairman to the Group.

The next meeting of the Computer Group will take place on Friday 4th June. The venue has now been switched from Chester to Bangor due to Gary's unavailability next week. This will take place at the impressive new Management Centre and overnight accommodation is available here for members wishing to travel down on the Thursday. Chester will now host the October meeting.

Thanks go to Duncan Allinson, Chairman of the Computer Group for arranging a meeting with representatives from Dell Computers to resolve ongoing problems. This took place at NWUPC's Manchester office on Tuesday 25th May and was attended by members of the Group along with Paul Tomany, the Consortium's MD. This was a very frank and open discussion from which it is hoped that radical improvements will be made to service levels.