



Welcome to the May 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

White Goods and Associated Electrical Appliances

The PQQ stage for the White Goods Agreement closed on 26th April 2011 and the analysis will be taking place over the next two weeks. It is planned that we will be issuing the ITT to suppliers who were successful at the initial stage on 31st May 2011 with a view to a start date of 1st September 2011.

Lift Consultancy

This Agreement is now at the Invitation to Tender Stage. Documentation was sent out to seven suppliers who submitted successful PQQs. The closing date for the return of this information is 23rd May 2011 and analysis is expected to take about a month. The Lift Consultancy Framework Agreement has a proposed start date of 1st August 2011.

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Maintenance

This is a new Agreement for NWUPC which was suggested by members of our Estates Commodity Group. This is going to be a regional agreement for members of the NWUPC and should be in place by 1st November 2011. This agreement will cover periodic service arrangements, planned and reactive maintenance requirements. Commitment forms have been sent out to members and we are putting together a tender working party at the moment. If you are interested in joining this group and providing your input then please contact Helen Dodd-Williams @ Helen.dodd-williams@manchester.ac.uk or on 0161 234 8012.

Cleaning Chemicals and Janitorial Supplies

The current Framework Agreement is due to end on 31st December 2011 and so we are beginning work on the new agreement which will run concurrently beginning on 1st January 2012. Commitment forms have been sent out to the Domestic Commodity Group and it is intended that we will place the OJEU notice at the end of June 2011. If you are interested in joining this group and providing your input then please contact Helen Dodd-Williams @ Helen.dodd-williams@manchester.ac.uk or on 0161 234 8012.

Tool Hire

The draft ITT documents will be circulated to the sub-group during w/c 9th May 2011, and on approval will be issued to the potential suppliers who have reached this stage.

AV Equipment and Installations

The current agreement ends on the 31st December 2011, work has started on the new agreement and it will be in place to commence on the 1st January 2012.

Sanitary Disposals and Related Products and Supplies

The sub-group is due to meet on the 10th May 2011 to evaluate the supplier returns, the new agreement is scheduled to commence on the 1st August 2011.

Plumbing, Ceramics, Heating and Ventilation Equipment and Supplies

This agreement is in a similar position to the Tool Hire agreement - the draft ITT documents will be circulated to the sub -group w/c 9th May 2011 and on approval issued to the potential suppliers.

Audio Visual Consumables and PPI Framework Agreements

Commitment forms will be issued to members during this month for both the above two agreements. To ensure the agreements covers all our members requirements, could you please ensure they are completed and returned to us.

Joint Contracting Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the 12th May 2011 and will be held for the first time at APUC; the group has continued to grow and now has representation from NWUPC, NEUPC, LUPC, SUPC, APUC, TUCO Purchasing, CPC and TEC.

Investors in People

NWUPC had their Investors in People assessment on the 31st March 2011, and achieved success in being awarded the Investors in People Gold Award.

The Gold Award puts the consortium in an elite group of organisations, as there are currently 30,000 organisations with the Investors in People status, however, there are less than 1% that have achieved the prestigious Gold Award status.

So well done and congratulations to all the consortium staff.

CPD Sessions

Our CPD session this month is being held at the University of Salford on the 5th May 2011. The session is entitled 'Introduction to Procurement' and is being presented by Jo Kavanagh. It 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 good procurement practices can bring to their institutions.

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

April is traditionally a quiet month for Commodity Groups and as a result we took the opportunity to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting of a specially convened Strategy Group to discuss the way forward for our Commodity Groups. As these have largely remained the same, it was felt that, along with other changes taking place, the time was right to review the way in which these are run.

The meeting was held in Manchester on Monday 11th April where it was decided that we would enter into a consultation period of some 6 months to review the efficiency of our groups by surveying members' representatives on how the structure could be improved.

A group of volunteers will compile a specially drafted questionnaire to find out the needs and wants of our Commodity Group representatives. No decisions will be made without the full backing of our members and any changes will not be implemented before 2012. It goes without saying that we are very grateful for all the hard work and ongoing support we receive from our members.