



Welcome to the November 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

Cleaning Chemicals and Janitorial Supplies

A tender working party meeting was held on the 31st October 2011 to discuss the scope of the ITT documents and environmental considerations.

Supply and Delivery of AV Equipment and Supply, Delivery and Installation of AV Equipment

Evaluation for lot 1, supply and delivery of AV equipment is nearing completion. Meetings have been arranged during November with the sub group to discuss and evaluate lot 2. This agreement should be in place for 1st January 2012.

Electronic Components

A working meeting took place on the 6th October 2011 to begin drafting the renewal tender documentation.

Serials, Periodicals and Associated Services

Jane Hargreaves from the NWUPC and Colette Hughes from Edge Hill University attended the LUPC sub group meeting for Serials, Periodicals and Associated Services representing members of NWUPC and NoWAL on this working party. Work is underway and this tender renewal should be in place in March 2012.

A.V. Consumables

Work on the new framework agreement will commence in the next few weeks, if you wish to participate by joining the tender working party, please contact David Lamb at david.lamb@liverpool.ac.uk or ring 0161 234 8003.

CPD Programme 2011/2012

Our next CPD session covers an Introduction to EU Procurement Directives on the 29th November 2011. This session is being held at the University of Manchester and is presented by Flo Gregg. This session is a practical hands-on session, exploring the legislative framework, its application and the challenge of applying the procurement rules to a real life tender situation.

NVQs

The Supply Chain Management NVQ continues at levels 2, 3, 4, and 5. If you or any of your colleagues are interested in undertaking this qualification, please contact David Lamb at david.lamb@liverpool.ac.uk or ring 0161 234 8003.

GeM

GeM is the new eMarketplace and contracts database for both the Higher Education and Further Education sectors. The eMarketplace works in a similar way as Amazon, it allows users to buy many of their day to day needs including services - payment for orders is via corporate payment cards.

The contracts database has replaced CuPID and continues to work as a standalone system. Purchasing departments can now manage their contract data and how their buyers view it on a single system.

NWUPC is arranging a GeM training session (date to be confirmed) in late November/early December. Applications to attend should be sent to Jane Hargreaves at Jane.hargreaves@manchester.ac.uk or 0161 234 8005. The closing date for applications to attend is the 11th November 2011.

Commodity Groups

Meetings are in full swing again and on 12th October the Catering Group were guests of Britvic at the fantastic venue of the BT Convention Centre in Liverpool's Docklands area. As luck would have it, perhaps the largest ever attendance at a Commodity Group meeting happened to be in possibly our smallest ever meeting room! Although things were 'cosy' the atmosphere was brilliant and our group - a joint TUCO/NWUPC venture - goes from strength to strength with new representatives joining us at almost every meeting and new ideas constantly being put forward to improve the Agenda and discuss new projects.

We have an extremely well attended, enthusiastic and pro-active group and I would like to thank all the members for making it such a success and for making our meetings so enjoyable and productive.

Thanks must also go to all our Heads of Procurement and Chairs of Commodity Groups who gave up their time to attend the recent Strategy Meeting to discuss the way forward for Commodity Groups. All member feedback has now been collated and survey results are available for anyone wishing to see them.

We will be streamlining the groups and it is hoped that the proposed changes - although not major - will only improve the efficiency of our groups. We will be convening a further meeting in around 12 months' time to review the effect of these changes.