



Welcome to the March 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

Lift Maintenance – New National Agreement

NEUPC is currently 'out to market' for a new national framework agreement for lift maintenance services. The tendering process will be conducted exclusively via NEUPC's In-Tend portal and members are asked to instruct their incumbent suppliers to register with NEUPC to access information about this opportunity. Pre-qualification questionnaires are due for return from applicants on 28th March. For more information please contact Mark Hayter at m.r.hayter@leeds.ac.uk

Toilet Tissue Agreement

The Toilet Tissue Agreement is due to be advertised week commencing 8 March 2010 and will be in place on the 1 September 2010.

Examination Answer Books

Work continues on this agreement, using the restricted two stage tender process. The first stage, evaluation of the supplier PQQs is almost complete and the second stage will begin within the next two weeks.

Fixed Wire Testing

The tender documentation for this will be completed during week commencing 8 March 2010; and the agreement will be advertised the following week.

Lift Consultancy

The sub-group is currently preparing a PQQ and hope to have an agreement in place by September.

Furniture

The closing date for the return of tender documents is 12th March 2010; samples are being evaluated on the 1st April at the University of Salford, if you would like to assist in this part of the evaluation please contact Mike Haslin at m.haslin@liverpool.ac.uk

Supplier Review Meetings

Review meetings have been held for both the Recycling Bins and Sanitary Bins frameworks. Meetings have been scheduled for the Cleaning Chemicals, Janitorial Supplies and Bedding and Window Covering frameworks – user surveys have been

issued. If you have any supplier issues you would like to be discussed at the meetings, please ensure details are included on your user survey forms.

CPD Sessions

Negotiation Tactics – 10 Advanced Skills

This session is presented by Jenny Radcliffe, and is being held on the 25 March at Liverpool John Moores University. Some familiar aspects of negotiation will be covered alongside several less well known techniques. The session will provide delegates with practical tools to take into their next meeting or negotiation.

Introduction to EU Directives

This is being held at the University of Salford on the 13 April and is presented by Florence Gregg. The session provides an overall awareness of the EU public procurement legislation as it is transposed into the UK. At the end of the session, delegates will have a good understanding of the terminology, the fundamental principles, using the open and restricted procedures, applying the standstill period, debriefing unsuccessful suppliers, and the new remedies available to suppliers.

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

NWUPC Conference

Our annual conference is being held on the 30 March at the University of Manchester. We have our largest number of suppliers attending with 57 exhibitors, covering the full range of commodity group areas. Delegates are encouraged to register their intention to attend, all the details can be found on our website or via any member of staff.

Commodity Group Update

The February Computer Group meeting was a ground breaking event in that it marked the first ever Commodity Group held by video link to Ulster. The venue was the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and Andy Todd from University of Ulster was our man at the other end of the line. Reception was excellent and this was a good way of overcoming the obvious logistical problems in attending meetings faced by our members in Northern Ireland. The meeting was well attended and provided a lively exchange of views. Our thanks go to Dave Long and his colleagues at RNCM for their hard work in making this possible.

Annual Returns Database

NWUPC has now completed importing the expenditure information for all member institutions into the new online version of the Annual Returns Database. The new software has improved the importing and processing of data and simplified the reporting side of the database. Following this exercise, the regional administrators are to meet to review how the database has performed and suggest ways in which it can be improved. For more information, or if you have any feedback, please contact the Consortium.