

North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium Ltd



Issue 8, September 2009

Welcome to the September issue of our newsletter. It covers up-dates on the contracting teams activities, the next CPD session, NVQ availability, and commodity groups. If you require additional details regarding any item contained in the newsletter, please contact any of the members of staff.

Contracting Update

Networking Equipment and Convergent Consultancy

We have adopted the NEUPC agreement. The agreement commenced on the 1st August 2009 and runs until the 31st July 2011 with the options of 2 X 1 year extensions. All details are on our website.

National Desktop and Notebook Agreement

This is an LUPC agreement that we have adopted and it started on the 1st of August 2009 and runs for 3 years with an option for a one year extension available. All details are available on our website.

Examination Answer Books

The current agreement ends on the 28th February 2010. We have started the process to implement a new agreement, and have issued commitment forms to all our members, and the deadline for their return is the 1st September 2009.

Telecom Networks – Voice Calls and Lines

We have adopted this Buying Solutions agreement, which runs until the 7th January 2012. There are 12 suppliers on it, and details can be found on our website.

Bricks, Timber, Paint and Plaster Framework

CPC have awarded the above framework, we are in the process of consulting members to determine if we should adopt the agreement. Commitment forms have been issued, the deadline for their return is the 14th September 2009.

CPD Training Sessions

Advanced Contract Law

This training session is being held on the 18th September 2009 at the University of Salford, it is being presented by Mike Keane. If you or any of your colleagues are interested, please contact Sue Wilson.

Sustainable Procurement

Looking ahead to October, the sustainable procurement session is being held on the 20th at the University of Manchester. The content is suitable for both procurement officers and delegates with a responsibility for environmental issues. Please contact Sue Wilson for further details.

NVQs

The Supply Chain Management NVQ programme continues, at levels 2, 3, 4, and 5, further information can be obtained by contacting David Lamb.

COUP 2009

It is LUPCs turn to host the event, which is being held over the 7th, 8th, and 9th September at the Royal Holloway University in Egham Surrey. The contracting team are representing the NWUPC at the event, and look forward to seeing you there.

Commodity Group Update

Commodity Group Meeting Schedule for 2010

The draft meeting schedule for 2010 has now been circulated to Heads of Procurement and Group Chairs for approval. As soon as this is finalised it will be rolled out at the Autumn meetings so all members have as much advance notice as possible. We have done our best to avoid half term and other school holidays which can affect attendance at meetings. This year has been very encouraging in that attendance at meetings has increased again and we thank all members for their continued support and assistance.

Annual Returns Data

Also planned for Autumn Commodity Group Meetings are a series of presentations by our Marketing Manager Andy Wojciechowski on the new and improved Annual Returns Database (ARD). The new online database will allow quicker access to your institutions data once it has been returned and processed. The database has become increasingly useful as a means of identifying areas for collaborative procurement and therefore potential savings. As such it is a vital management information tool that compliments the EMM returns.

NWUPC Staff News

Welcome to Sarah Williams, who has recently joined the NWUPC team. Sarah will provide valuable administrative support to the central team.

NWUPC News

NWUPC on behalf of ENPC is pleased to announce we have won funding from HEFCE under the Leadership, Governance and Management scheme for a two year project to enhance collaborative procurement across the English HE sector. The bid, LGM 199, will provide £152,500 over two years for two support staff for the various National Working Parties to increase their efficiency and effectiveness by reducing the administrative workload of the technical and procurement staff on these groups. To ensure national coverage and reduce traveling costs one member of staff will be based in NWUPC's offices in Manchester with the other in SUPC's offices in Reading.

Susan Wright Head of SUPC says "We are delighted to have won this funding especially as it shows HEFCE recognises the importance of the ongoing collaboration between the four English Consortia". In practical terms the resource will provide secretarial support, ensure contract information is up to date on the relevant websites including CUPID and encourage National Working Parties to have a consistent methodology for contract administration. Paul Tomany of NWUPC comments "This bid fits into the UUK Strategic Procurement Group's plans and the bid was supported by Geoff Hope-Terry, Chair of the UUK SPG". The process of recruiting staff will begin shortly and further announcements will be made in the near future.