



Crown
Commercial
Service

Newsletter
February 2015

Buying Goods and Services for Schools

Welcome to the fourth edition of our newsletter for schools

In this issue you will find:

- New Technology Products deal
- New Technology Catalogue
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This issue provides you with the latest updates on buying goods and services from the Crown Commercial Service (CCS). We have a large number of compliant, money saving deals that have been developed on behalf of the whole of the public sector (including central government departments) that are available to all publicly funded schools.



Technology Products

We have a new Technology Products deal for commodity hardware and software requirements, which is ideal whether you are looking to make a simple commodity purchase or are buying hardware and software as part of a wider technology solution. The deal is divided into 4 areas:

- **Lot 1: Technology Hardware** – for the provision of ‘vendor neutral’ ICT commodities/ hardware
- **Lot 2: Packaged Software** – for the provision of packaged, commercial off- the-shelf software, Open Source software and licences
- **Lot 3: Secure Technology Products and Disposals** – for the provision of Information Assured Security products (both hardware and software)
- **Lot 4: End User Devices** – for the provision of (high) volume procurements for end user devices of any type/format (e.g. PC, laptop, tablet, thin client, other devices)

The agreement can be accessed in a number of ways depending on your requirements so for full guidance please visit our website [here](#)

Technology catalogue

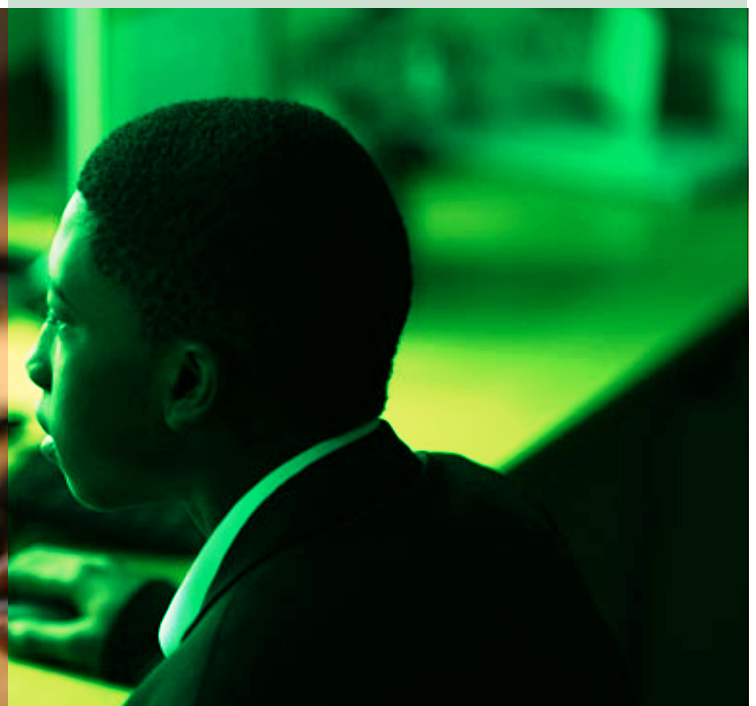
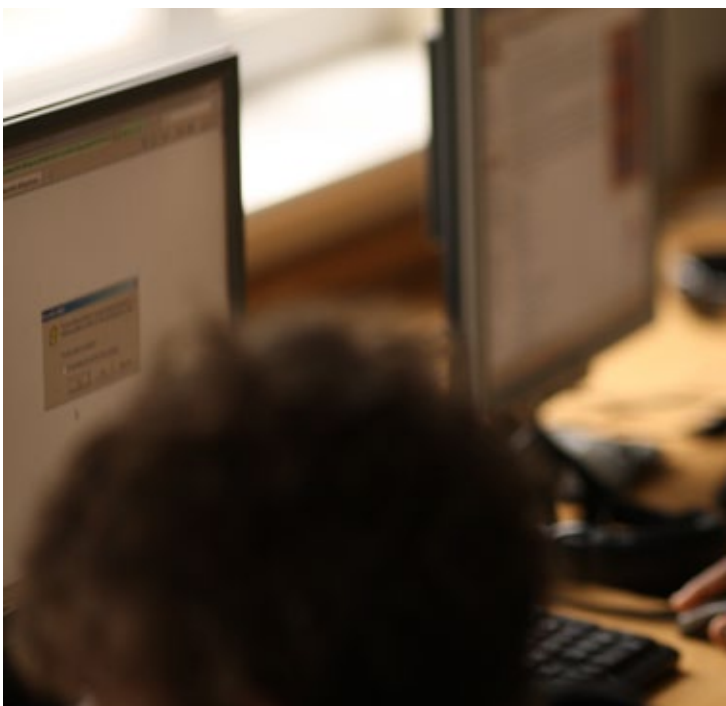
A new technology catalogue has been launched on the Government eMarketplace providing a quick and efficient route to buy low value technology related products and services.

The technology catalogue gives you access to suppliers from the [Technology Products \(RM1054\)](#) deal (as described above) providing a wide range of technology products including hardware, packaged software and associated services.

Content will be regularly updated with new suppliers, products and services being added and refreshed as the catalogue develops.

If you are already registered to use the Government eMarketplace you can access the catalogue by logging on [here](#). You can also continue to access all other catalogue content via your standard route.

If you are not yet registered, you can find out more about the eMarketplace and register [here](#)



Aggregation opportunities

Co-ordinating the buying requirements of different organisations (also known as aggregation) has important benefits including simplifying the tendering process, more efficient dealings with markets and better value for money.

Our eAuction programme enables you to join other organisations with the same requirements to bring together demand and drive down prices.

Our Technology Aggregation and Design team use eAuctions to provide opportunities for you to benefit from combining your requirements with those of other organisations for a range of goods and services within the scope of our Technology Products (RM1054) deal (lot 1 -Technology Hardware and lot 2 - Packaged Software). This includes, but is not limited to, laptops, tablets, mobile handsets (excluding airtime), desktops, monitors, keyboards, mouse, thin clients, docking stations, servers, switches, card readers, memory sticks, accessories and commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) packaged software.

Recent eAuctions have resulted in excellent price savings, for example £5.2 million (66%) on average was saved for 30 customers in a recent mobile voice and data services eAuction.

To express your interest in getting involved please email

Technologyaggregation@ccs.gsi.gov.uk

Electronic Purchasing Card Solution

Our electronic purchasing card deal provides customers with Visa or MasterCard which have set terms and conditions and no annual fees for the purchase of low value goods and services. Further details including key benefits and how to access the deal are available [here](#).

Fuel Cards

Our fuel card agreement provides you with a simple method of payment for vehicle fuel purchased at retail outlets throughout the UK and Europe via a fuel card.

The deal will support your fleet managers in managing and controlling costs with detailed management information for efficient fleet management.

The deal offers value for money with agreements secured with a range of suppliers, providing choice and flexibility. Access to the deal is straightforward, via direct award or by a further competition. Request a desktop assessment pack to help you obtain indicative pricing from each supplier by emailing

epayments@ccs.gsi.gov.uk

Insurance Services

The current Insurance Services (RM958) agreement has been extended until 25 February 2016. We are now also working in partnership with YPO, ESPO and NEPO to develop a replacement agreement to be in place by October 2015. We are keen to involve as many customers as possible in its development.

If you would like to get involved please email

insurance@ccs.gsi.gov.uk



New Website

As you may already be aware, our website has recently moved to GOV.UK, the single website for government information. Our new web address is www.gov.uk/ccs but our email address, telephone numbers and social media profiles remain the same.

Now that we are on the GOV.UK website you can also sign up for immediate, daily or weekly email alerts which will tell you what we have added or updated on the website. It is a great way to stay up to date with the latest news and information.

To sign up for email alerts simply click [here](#) to provide your email address and select the frequency you wish to receive updates.

We also have some new web pages on GOV.UK aimed specifically at schools. You can view this new content here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/buying-goods-and-services-in-education

Latest news from the Department for Education

Business Managers Procurement Skills Survey

The Department for Education has set up a pilot to increase schools' procurement capability with the aim of helping reduce the risk of legal challenges from suppliers and improving value for money when making purchases.

To help establish what support schools require most when buying goods and services, a short questionnaire has been set up [here](#) for you to provide your feedback.

Monthly update

Every month we publish a round-up of the latest news, events and training opportunities and you can view the latest issue [here](#)

If you would like to receive a copy of this regular update please email your contact details including email address to education@ccs.gsi.gov.uk

Upcoming Events

[Academies Show](#)

We will be attending the next Academies Show in London on 29 April. The event is free to attend so if you are planning to visit please come to see us at one of our sessions on the conference programme or visit us at our stand.



Get in touch

Our education team is on hand to help you create savings for your school.

We recognise that schools, particularly academies and free schools, often require guidance when buying goods and services and we are here to assist at any stage of the process.

Please visit our [education pages](#) on our website for further information on our deals and how to access them or email us directly at education@ccs.gsi.gov.uk

We welcome your feedback and ideas on how we can develop this newsletter to ensure we provide the information, advice and news that helps you. Please email us at education@ccs.gsi.gov.uk with your thoughts, suggestions and questions.