



Schools newsletter

Buying goods and services

This update provides you with the latest news on buying goods and services from the Crown Commercial Service (CCS).

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Schools saving more than 40% via new framework for printers

Our [Multifunctional Devices \(RM3781\) framework](#) is making buying printers easier and is helping to save schools money. The first schools to use the new buying framework have saved more than 40% on previous contract prices. To read more you can [view the full article from DfE](#).

The framework is open to all public sector organisations and charities and covers multifunctional devices, from print equipment and entry level print management software to fully managed print services, as well as content and records information management services. To find out more [take a look at the brochure](#).

Payments go live on the Crown Marketplace purchasing platform

The Crown Marketplace (CMp) programme has taken a major step forward this week with the introduction of a new checkout system, allowing buyers to complete their purchases using electronic purchasing cards.

The purchasing platform, currently in its test phase, uses the latest technology to match buyers with sellers and gives customers from across the public sector the very best value for money.

Although still in its test phase, customers can now complete purchases within the platform. Until now, buyers using the platform's 2 catalogues – Technology Products 2 and Office Supplies – would select items to buy, and then be contacted by suppliers to arrange payment direct. The latest development means that buyers can complete their purchase using their electronic purchasing card solution (e-PCS).

The platform's catalogues offer more than 300,000 products. The ambition is to provide buyers with a seamless experience similar to using a major online retailer.

Matt Denham, Senior Responsible Officer for CMp, said:

"This latest step in the test phase of the CMp purchasing platform is truly exciting. We can now offer buyers an end-to-end buying experience, which I believe will revolutionise procurement for the public sector."



Payment services

Whether you're looking to improve your processes for collecting payments, paying invoices or even buying fuel, our payment services agreements can help you make significant savings and reduce time consuming admin work. What's more, it needn't be a lengthy process. We can get you up and running in a matter of weeks. If receiving too many invoices is your issue, our [ePurchasing Card Solution \(RM1095\)](#) has helped customers reduce the number of invoices they receive by as much as 45%, while saving between £28-45 per card on annual card fees.

If you'd like to take payments but aren't sure where to start, we can help you get set up to receive payments online, in person or over the phone with our [Merchant Acquiring Services, Equipment and Payment Gateway Services agreement \(RM3702\)](#). Our solutions allow you to take payments from businesses and citizens quickly and securely, with a variety of savings such as competitive rates to help reduce the cost of merchant acquiring and payment gateway fees and reduced terminal hire fees.

Are you looking for a more efficient and cheaper way to buy fuel? Take a look at our [Fuel Card agreement \(RM1027\)](#). Reduced fuel card fees and charges have helped save over £1.3 million for UK police forces and £900,000 for the UK ambulance service. To find out more, [read our payment services brochure](#) or email financial.services@crowcommercial.gov.uk.

7 good reasons to sort your payment solutions today
<https://ccsheretohelp.uk/7-good-reasons-to-sort-your-payment-solutions-today/>

Water, Wastewater and Ancillary Services

Our new [Water, Wastewater and Ancillary Services \(RM3790\)](#) is now live and could save your school money. In collaboration with YPO, The Energy Consortium, Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO), West Mercia Energy, and the Ministry of Defence. We have brought to market the largest public sector framework in the UK for water supply, wastewater and ancillary services. From 01 April 2017 onwards 'eligible' non-household customers will be able to choose their supplier of water, wastewater and ancillary services. [Find out more](#).





Take part in aggregated further competitions

When buying common goods and services, bringing together customers' needs provides several advantages, including savings and a simpler tender process. Recent examples of our aggregation success can be found in our [case study collection](#).

Aggregation opportunities for education customers:
NFC69 is to facilitate and aggregate the purchasing of chromebook, laptops and desktops for education. Timescales enable devices to be ordered and delivered for the start of the 2017/18 academic year.

Technology Hardware for Schools 2 (NFC69) will be competed under Lot 1 of the Technology Products 2 (RM3733) framework.

Process to get involved in the aggregation:
We require you to complete the [customer requirement form](#), this needs to be returned to aggregation@crownccommercial.gov.uk by 21 July 2017.

Please be aware that by returning the completed customer requirement form you are committing your organisation to purchasing the devices at the end of the process.

The project timeline to be involved in the aggregation with delivery before the end of the financial year is detailed below:

- deadline to return customer requirement template
- invitation to tender
- formal award
- order and delivery from



The dates are indicative and may be subject to change.



Events

Enterprise Software Solutions - Customer Engagement Events

The purpose of these events will be to get feedback from customers on their requirements and priorities when using CCS frameworks.

We will also invite customers to share their views on the current proposals for the structure and scope of the new framework. Feedback from these engagement events will be used to develop the blueprint for the new framework.

The workshop will cover a number of elements including:

- Current purchasing behaviour
- Software applications and services strategy
- Framework Lot content and structure
- Framework Terms and Conditions
- Framework Management Information (MI) and reporting
- Upcoming Customer engagement events

North West Event

Wednesday 31 May, 11am-2pm
(41 Industrial Park ,
Wakefield, WF2 0XE)

South East Event

Thursday 01 June, 9am-12pm
(Aviation House, 125 Kingsway,
London, WC2B 6SE)

To register for these events please contact the team, email ess@crownccommercial.gov.uk

As spaces are limited to 40, we kindly ask that no more than 2 representatives from each organisation attend either event.





Do you need vehicles for your school?



Find out more about our [Vehicle Purchase eAuction](#), which could save you both time and money.



Government eMarketplace

You can use the Government eMarketplace to access online catalogues and carry out direct awards.

- Full details of the Government eMarketplace and how to register can be found [here](#).
- Already registered? [Log on](#)
- Help and support: email eMarketplace@crownccommercial.gov.uk or call **0345 410 2222**



Quick links to our live framework agreements and pipeline

[Full list of our frameworks](#)

[Our framework pipeline](#)

[Technology aggregation opportunities](#)



Useful links for accessing our frameworks

eSourcing tool

Our free to use eSourcing tool can be used to carry out both direct award and further competitions. This is an online tool where you can submit your requirements to framework suppliers and receive their proposals back through the system.

- [Training](#): free training sessions are held for customers each month.
- [Guidance](#)
- [Registration](#)
- Already registered? [Log on](#)

How to keep up to date with CCS

Follow us on social media

We share regular news and updates on Twitter and LinkedIn so if you are not already following us why not take a minute to do so now.

[@gov_procurement](#) or [@CCS_edu](#) [LinkedIn](#)

For more information

Sign up to receive news and updates, find out more about CCS events or speak to someone, by filling out this [form](#).

Get in touch

Our education customer team is on hand to help you achieve savings for your organisation. You can email us at education@crownccommercial.gov.uk

You can also call our helpdesk on **0345 410 2222** if you would like to talk to somebody.