



Crown
Commercial
Service

Newsletter
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Buying goods and services for colleges and universities

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for colleges and universities

In this issue you will find:

- G-Cloud 7
- Webinar: G-Cloud or Digital Services?
- How to buy communication services
- Buying technology: how we can help
- Awarding Organisations
- Full list of our agreements
- Upcoming events
- Sign up for email alerts
- Our monthly customer update
- Useful links for accessing our agreements
- How to get in touch

This issue provides you with the latest updates on buying goods and services from the Crown Commercial Service (CCS). Our compliant, money saving deals have been developed for the whole of the public sector, including colleges and universities.



G-Cloud 7

The latest version of the G-Cloud agreement - [G-Cloud 7](#) - is now available, providing you with a compliant route to buy cloud based IT services on a direct award basis (meaning that you can contact your preferred supplier immediately). G-Cloud is regularly refreshed so you can access the most up to date and innovative cloud solutions.

How to access G-Cloud services

All G-Cloud services are showcased via an online catalogue called the Digital Marketplace. The Digital Marketplace is an online platform providing all public sector organisations with a way to find and buy:

- standard cloud-based services
- specialists who can work on digital projects
- physical datacentre space for legacy systems.

Within [Digital Marketplace](#), there is a G-Cloud front page where you can look for suppliers using a search term/ keywords relating to your requirement. Your search will then return a list of references to potential suppliers and their offer, including pricing information for each one.

Assuming that a supplier's offer meets your requirements, you will be able to engage directly with them as a shortlisted supplier. No tender or pre-qualification process is required, just direct contact with a supplier.

If you have any questions about G-Cloud please email ict_services@crowncommercial.gov.uk

Webinar - G-Cloud or Digital Services?

We offer two different solutions for digital and cloud services - [G-Cloud](#) and [Digital Services](#) - and are often asked by our customers which route is best for their particular needs. To answer this, we are hosting a webinar at **10.30am** on **15 March** to show customers how the Digital Marketplace works and the difference between G-Cloud and Digital Services. The session will last about an hour and there will be the opportunity to ask the team your questions. To reserve your place for your preferred date please email Cloud_digital@crowncommercial.gov.uk.

At a very high level, the following characteristics will help you determine whether G-Cloud or Digital Services best suits your needs:

G-Cloud

- Commodity services
- Direct award
- Supplier T&Cs
- Supplier Intellectual Property Rights/ Source Code
- No agile development, configuration only

Digital Services

- Bespoke services
- Further competition
- Government T&Cs
- Customer Intellectual Property Rights/ Source code
- Agile development - iterative

How to buy communication services

A guide to buying media and advertising services such as market research, strategy planning, creative solutions, events and media monitoring is available [here](#).

The guide outlines the options available and helps direct you to the best solution to meet your specific requirement.

Buying technology: how we can help

We have a pipeline of technology opportunities you can join so that your requirements can be combined with those of other organisations to help you achieve greater value for money.

Taking part in an aggregated competition is a straightforward process:

- simply sign a Memorandum of Understanding to confirm your commitment
- tell us what your requirements are
- validate the supplier tenders
- sign a contract with the successful supplier

An opportunity for mobile voice and data services specifically for the education sector is under consideration but is dependent on demand and the complexity of going to market.

If you are interested in getting involved please email technologyaggregation@crownccommercial.gov.uk.

Other opportunities include technology hardware and software. You can find further guidance and information about this and other future aggregated purchasing opportunities here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/buying-technology-how-ccs-can-help>.

Awarding Organisations

We are working with the [Association of Colleges](#), [Crescent Purchasing Consortium](#) and awarding organisations across England to develop an agreement for the education sector to purchase both general and vocational qualifications.

The agreement aims to provide a simpler purchase route and ensure that the education sector is in line with the requirements of the recently introduced EU procurement legislation.

The development of the agreement is still in its early stages and we will update you as progress is made. In the meantime, you can find out more [here](#).

Full list of our agreements

We provide a wide range of agreements that you can use to buy common goods and services, such as stationery, printers, photocopiers, electricity and IT equipment, without having to carry out your own tender process. To view a list of all our agreements, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crown-commercial-service-agreements/ccs-agreement-list>



Sign up for email alerts

You can sign up for immediate, daily or weekly email alerts which will tell you what we have added or updated on the GOV.UK website. It is a great way to stay up to date with the latest news and information from CCS. [Sign up for email alerts](#) and provide your email address and select the frequency you wish to receive updates.

Monthly customer update

As well as this newsletter dedicated to Colleges and Universities, every month we publish a round-up of the latest procurement news, events and training opportunities. You can view the latest issue [here](#).

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

Useful links for accessing our agreements

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 the suppliers of your chosen deal and receive their proposals back through the system.

- **Training:** Free training sessions are held for customers each month. To sign up, please visit: <http://ccs-forms.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/booking>
- **Guidance:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esourcing-suite-guidance-for-customers>
- **Registration:** <http://ccs-forms.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/using-esourcing-suite-0>
- **Already registered? Log on:** <https://gpsesourcing.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sso/jsp/login.jsp>

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:** <https://www.gov.uk/emarketplace-a-guide-for-public-sector-buyers>
- **Already registered? Log on:** <https://buyers.procserviceonline.com/otis/login.html?marketplace=gem>
- **Help and support:** email eMarketplace@crownccommercial.gov.uk or call **0345 410 2222**

Get in touch

Our education team is on hand to help you create savings for your college and university. We recognise that you may 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@crownccommercial.gov.uk