



Crown
Commercial
Service

September 2016

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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G-Cloud 8



The latest version of our G-Cloud agreement - G-Cloud 8 - is now available, providing you with a great value and compliant route to buy cloud based IT services on a direct award basis, helping you to find and 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 [E: ict_services@crownccommercial.gov.uk](mailto:ict_services@crownccommercial.gov.uk) or register for our next G-Cloud webinar as detailed below.



Adobe products

We're planning our first aggregated further competition for Adobe products to simplify the purchase of products that fall within the scope of the Enterprise Term License Agreement.

The agreement between CCS and Adobe offers:

- significant discounts
- predictable budgeting for 3 years
- latest versions of Adobe products
- easy deployment and management

We expect to award the first contract in October and run subsequent competitions on a frequent basis.

To get involved or find out more please email:

[E: technologyaggregation@crownccommercial.gov.uk](mailto:technologyaggregation@crownccommercial.gov.uk)



Estates Professional Services

The current Estates Professional Services (RM928) agreement is due to expire on 31 March 2017, and we're beginning the process of engaging with customers, suppliers and industry bodies to understand the changes in the market and ensure the new commercial solution meets our customer's needs.

We're interested in hearing from education customers who have feedback to share or would like to be involved in helping to shape the procurement strategy. We'll also be holding our first round of customer engagement sessions in October. If you would like to come to an event or share your feedback please email

[E: property@crownccommercial.gov.uk](mailto:property@crownccommercial.gov.uk).





CCS at the Academies Show

We will be speaking and exhibiting at the next [Academies Show](#) in Birmingham on **23 November**.

The event is free to attend so if you are planning to visit please come to see us at our session on the conference programme or visit us at our stand.



Quick links to our live framework agreements and pipeline

[Full list of our agreements](#)

[Our framework pipeline](#)

[Technology aggregation opportunities](#)

Furniture Associated Services

The current Furniture Associated Services (RM1501) agreement is due to expire on 16 December 2016, and CCS are beginning the process of engaging with customers, suppliers and industry bodies to understand the changes in the market and ensure the final commercial solution meets our customers' needs.

We will be holding supplier and customer engagement sessions in September/October 2016. If you would like to attend please email property@crowcommercial.gov.uk. If you cannot attend these sessions but would like to share your feedback, please send your views to the same address.

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 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

Sign up for email alerts

You can also 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. Simply [sign up for email alerts](#) and provide your email address and select the frequency you wish to receive updates.

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.

 **twitter:** [@gov_procurement](#)

 **twitter:** [@CCS_edu](#)

 **LinkedIn:** [Crown Commercial Service](#)

Read our monthly CCS customer update

As well as this update dedicated to schools, every month we publish a round-up of the latest news, events and training opportunities. You can view both the latest issue and back copies [on our website](#).

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

Get in touch

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

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

