



## Commodity Updates

This document will give you an update on any new frameworks in place, or news on existing ones. Please note this is not the full list of available frameworks, just those where there is some news to report. For the full list of frameworks and for further information on any of those listed here, please visit [Hunter Buyers Portal](#).

The initials next to each framework indicate the LUPC Senior Category Manager you should contact for further information about a particular framework, these are as follows:

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<b>JG</b>	Julie Gooch	07546 050 410	<a href="mailto:j.gooch@lupc.ac.uk">j.gooch@lupc.ac.uk</a>
<b>JM</b>	Justin McLoughlin	07568 227 623	<a href="mailto:j.mcloughlin@lupc.ac.uk">j.mcloughlin@lupc.ac.uk</a>
<b>MK</b>	Mike Kilner	07932 347 182	<a href="mailto:m.kilner@lupc.ac.uk">m.kilner@lupc.ac.uk</a>
<b>RD</b>	Roy Dennis	07419 583 838	<a href="mailto:r.dennis@lupc.ac.uk">r.dennis@lupc.ac.uk</a>

Other useful contacts:

JISC	<a href="https://www.jisc.ac.uk/">https://www.jisc.ac.uk/</a>
TUCO	<a href="http://www.tuco.org/">http://www.tuco.org/</a>
TEC	<a href="http://www.tec.ac.uk/">http://www.tec.ac.uk/</a>

*Information correct as of 7<sup>th</sup> of January.*

### AUDIO VISUAL

#### Audio Visual: Broadcasting Equipment and Integration Services - AVI3120 NW **MK**

The agreement review meetings were not completed in November due to other priority review. This will now be scheduled to commence in July 2026 to coincide with the start of the final year of the agreement.

#### Audio Visual: Photographic Equipment and Consumables - AVI3199 NW **MK**

The agreement is nearing the end of the second year of the framework. First extension letters will be

issued to all framework suppliers in the coming weeks with an update provided confirming the extension once completed.

Preparation for the next set of review meetings will commence in January with these expected to be held w/c 23 February.

#### **Audio Visual: Supplies, System Design, Installation and Maintenance – National – AVI2007 NE MK**

The agreement lead has passed to recent NEUPC starter and the Category Manager for Audio Visual, [Tim Price](#). Review meetings will take place in early 2026 with suppliers and members as a means of introduction. The lead will be seeking to get a better understanding of what the potential pipeline for spend is from members as well as what suppliers have to offer in meeting the needs of members.

### **ESTATES**

#### **Floor Coverings Supply Fit & Maintenance - EFM2053 NE JM**

A new framework was let for November 2025 - October 2028

NEUPC will be exploring opportunities to improve framework marketing and increase opportunities with Suppliers in 2026

#### **Fleet Solutions – VEH3137 NW JM**

The NWUPC team are currently working on the retender for this agreement and have been meeting with incumbent and new suppliers as part of the pre market engagement, as well as conducting market and sector research.

If you have any questions about the Sustainable Fleet Solutions retender or wish to suggest any ideas and information to the team please do not hesitate to get in touch with framework lead Myles Woodman [myles.woodman@nwupc.ac.uk](mailto:myles.woodman@nwupc.ac.uk)

#### **Removals and Relocation – FFE2009 NE JM**

A new framework was let for May 2025 - April 2029. No sales have been reported through Hunter MI to date, which may be due to financial pressures across the sector, although there is legacy spend for 2025/26 under the previous framework. NEUPC will be exploring opportunities to improve framework marketing and increase opportunities with Suppliers in 2026

### Security and Cleaning Services – Regional – EFM5105 LU JG

LUPC Security and Cleaning Framework (EFM5105LU) went live on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

This agreement replaces Lots 2 and 3 of the previous frameworks for Estates and Facilities management services (EFM5059LU).

The new Security and Cleaning Framework comprises three Lots:

- **Lot 1: Security** – Encompassing control of access to premises, visitor management, patrolling, emergency response, asset protection, crowd control, and health & safety compliance.
- **Lot 2: Cleaning** – Covering routine and deep cleaning, waste removal, pest control, feminine hygiene services, portage, and external/high-level window cleaning.
- **Lot 3: Security and Cleaning** – A combined lot integrating both services above.

A launch for our members will be held in February to introduce the framework, explain the Lot structure and call-off process and answer member questions.

### Water Quality Management Services – National – EFM1068 AP JG

The Water quality management agreement was tendered by APUC and went live on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025. This agreement consists of the following Lots available to LUPC members:

- Lot 1B – Risk Assessment (England, Wales & NI) – Provision of an independent monitoring and auditing function to carry out Water Quality Risk Assessments, specifically for that of Legionella, but also including Coliforms and Biofilms.
- Lot 2 – Water Treatment Services (UK Wide) - This Lot provides compliant water treatment services aligned to current legislation, codes of practice, and site-specific risk assessments. It also covers the maintenance and repair of associated water treatment equipment and plant.
- Lot 3 – One-Stop-Shop (UK Wide) - This Lot provides an integrated water quality management service, combining risk assessment and water treatment under a single contractor. It offers a complete, compliant programme aligned with current legislation and recognised standards, ensuring continuity of service across both activities.

Full agreement details, including suppliers by Lot is available to members on [Hunter](#)

### White Goods - JAN3182 NW JM

The White Goods framework has been live for almost 6 months and has taken over from the previous iteration of the agreement smoothly. NWUPC are still working with John Gillman and Sons TA DAD Online after their administration notice in August to find out the ongoing position of the company, there has

however unfortunately been numerous changes of contact at the business and NWUPC are trying to obtain an update from the company.

## ICT

### Academic Integrity and Assessment Management Systems - ITS1049AP MK

Webinars will be held with ExamSoft and Turnitin in February. Inspira will hold a further webinar during Q3.

### Computing - Data Centre Management Equipment and Infrastructure – National – ITS2009 NE MK

Extension letters have been issued to extend the Framework to 13/02/2027, the first of the available extension periods. An update will be provided to confirm suppliers signing and returning the variation.

### Computing- Desktop and Notebook Agreement - National ('NDNA') – ITS5071 LU MK

Agreement price lists and buyers' guides for each route to market continue to be added to Hunter on a regular basis including the NDNA Desktop and Notebook Sales Reports up to and including 31 July 2025. The Q1 2025/6 reports (to 31 Oct25) have been temporarily delayed due to a reporting error from one of the OEMs but should be available shortly.

Work on the next year's NDNA tender commenced with a strategy options paper issued to management in November. This was submitted with a view to a meeting with a PA23 expert on how far we can compliantly push direct award call-off options and increased flexibility, while maintaining and maximizing competitive tension. LUPC remains keen to hear from potential volunteers willing to assist with either the written or the hardware evaluation (or both).

Updated factory disclosure reporting has been received from all four OEMs (Dell, Lenovo, HP and Stone); discussions continue with Electronics Watch on the next steps including the resolution of any queries. An additional route to market on NDNA, Dell via SCC, is now live with their completed schedules, and a Dell via SCC Buyers Guide and Price List all added to the contract database (Hunter).

There were 14 responses to the autumn's NDNA Pre-Review and Tender Questionnaire, which created a number of interesting talking points with the suppliers including off contract spend, direct award vs. further competition trends, thoughts on potentially introducing a Lot aimed at multi-vendor resellers, extending the minimum 3-year warranty to possibly 4 or 5 years in line with common refresh cycles in these stricter times, the Intel vs AMD vs Qualcomm silicon battle and others including sustainability and OPEX-led acquisition models such as leasing and device-as-a-service (DAAS).

Price reductions came into effect following competitive discussion with Lenovo, generally, 4-6% reduction between Q3 to Q4 on desktop and between 3%-9% on same period with notebooks. The issue around

Dell's new builds being incorrectly populated with Pro Support was resolved while a revised NDNA benchmarking report was uploaded to Hunter in late October.

The NDNA group have organised a MS Teams presentation from Dell's Client Solutions Specialist Melvyn Smith for 1430 Friday 9 January 2026, which was shared with the regional computing groups. The one hour open Technical Session with Q&A includes focuses on future releases and therefore, (i) the session will not be recorded and (ii) slides will be shared after the event, suitably redacted where necessary.

The spot and contract price for mainstream DDR4 and 5 memory more than doubled between July and November 2025 driven by the AI bubble and the demand from datacentres swallowing the existing capacity for memory, including NAND (SSD). A DDR5-5200 or 5600 32GB module that was selling for \$110 (£81.48) in July for example was trading for \$390 (£288.89) by early December. These increases have continued into 2026 while levelling slightly and resultingly, meetings have been arranged for 8 January with Dell, Lenovo to HP following commencement of the formal price notification process.

#### **Computing - High Performance Computing (HPC) National - ITS4062 SU MK**

The new Framework Agreement for High Performance Computing commenced 1 September 2025 with an expiry date of 31 August 2027, with the option of 2 x 12-month extensions. Please note that the framework has launched with five suppliers, Supermicro still in the process of finalising their contracts. The suppliers in order of ranking are:

Dell Corporation  
HPE  
XMA Limited  
Supermicro Inc  
Lenovo  
Eviden

Call-off from the Framework Agreement is by means of direct award (ranking), desktop evaluation or further competition. Hitachi have removed themselves from the award.

#### **Computing - ITRAP (IT Related Accessories and Parts) National - ITS4056 SU MK**

Business review meetings with strategic suppliers have been completed with actions to follow.

#### **Computing - National Education Printer Agreement 3 ('NEPA3') - ITS2011 NE MK**

Recent reseller changes are as follows. DocEx 360 have been added as an Epson reseller on Lot 2. Aurora

have been removed as a Canon reseller on all Lots, Canon are in the process of confirming a replacement. Ebayer have been removed from HP on lot 1, a replacement has not been suggested at present.

**Computing - Networking Supply & Services ('HENSS2') - National - ITS2008 NE MK**

The strategy for the re-procurement has been drafted, with a focus going forward on the re-tender exercise via competitive flexible procedure. A corrigendum has been made to the contract award notice to increase the framework expected spend, as this is higher than that diligently forecast in the original contract notice. Members wishing to input to the re-procurement should contact Paul Eagleton [p.eagleton@neupc.ac.uk](mailto:p.eagleton@neupc.ac.uk).

**Computing - Server, Storage and Solutions National Agreement ("SSSNA") - ITS4043 SU MK**

Pre Market Engagement for the replacement agreement is expected to commence shortly.

**Computing - Student Accommodation, Conference/Event, Delivered Catering & Hotel Management System(s) & Associated Services - ITS1051 AP MK**

APUC has invoked the final extension for the agreement, which will expire this November. Kinetic, a key supplier on the framework agreement, can now offer Celcat timetabling software as a product for purchase under Lot 5 (Multi-Functional Systems) of the framework agreement.

**Software License Resellers (SLRA) – National – ITS4042 SU MK**

The current SLRA has been extended by a month as a result of commercial clarifications. A launch webinar for the new framework will take place in or around March.

**Computing - IT Equipment Reuse Recycling and Disposal – National – ITS3082 NW MK**

The agreement has been extended to 14 July 2027. All suppliers have signed and returned the extension forms. No changes have been made to the supply base, which is expected to remain the same until 2027 when the LUPC-led Waste Management agreement replaces this framework.

**Jisc Certificate Framework - ITS15008 JC MK**

The Certificate framework is set up as a single supplier framework agreement with [DigiCert](#) (Buyers Guide

on link) for a certificate service that enables the sector to manage their SSL/TLS (Secure Socket Layer / Transport Layer Security) certificates for web, email and other services all in one place. This is a single supplier framework agreement with DigiCert and only covers the purchase of digital certificates from DigiCert. Digital certificates authenticate identities, secure communications, and uphold data integrity, forming the core of online trust.

This framework does not include any other products or services. For any services beyond digital certificates, or for clarification on the scope of this framework, please contact [certificates@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:certificates@jisc.ac.uk).

The types of SSL certificates available under this framework are:

- DV (domain validation)
- OV (organisation validation)
- EV (extended validation)
- OV multi-domain
- EV multi-domain
- Wildcard
- Client S/MIME
- Code signing
- Document signing

#### **Jisc Network Equipment Framework – ITS5063 LU MK**

HPE and Juniper formally completed their much-publicized merger on 2 January 2026. Jisc have reassured that the merger will not impact on the network solutions framework and that Lots 3 (HPE) and 4 (Juniper) will continue to operate as currently defined with no changes to their structure or availability. Members making use of Lots 3 and 4 should continue to follow the established framework processes as outlined in the buyer's guide.

Any specific questions or requests for clarification should be directed to [frameworkcontracts@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:frameworkcontracts@jisc.ac.uk).

#### **Jisc SMS Framework – ITS5077 LU MK**

The Janet Text Short Messaging Service Framework is live until April 2026. Jisc are currently gathering requirements from the community and encourage members to share any needs or feedback via [frameworkcontracts@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:frameworkcontracts@jisc.ac.uk) to help shape its future direction.

#### **Jisc Telephony DPS - ITS5064 LU MK**

The [Telephony DPS](#) has been further extended until 01/06/2026 to ensure stability and consistency for members. The Jisc team are currently working on the new updated version; premarket engagement has been completed, and the team are currently drafting the updated documentation. Any institution interested in being involved should reach out to [telephony@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:telephony@jisc.ac.uk).

#### Computing – General Matters not covered elsewhere

The National ICT Group (NICT) continues to meet every 4-5 weeks to discuss matters arising across the 25-plus ICT framework agreements, potential future collaboration and present IT procurement-related issues within the sector. The last meeting was held 6 November with the next set for 12 January. A member of the JCG (Joint Contracting Group) is regularly invited to attend.

APUC is tendering for Student Placement Software. The teaching profession will act as a “vanguard” specification. The user group is made of Higher Education Institutions and Local Authorities, and a resultant framework agreement will be put in place to allow institutions to explore rationalisation opportunities.

The latest [blog](#) for the Jisc-managed OCRE 2024 Cloud Framework (ITS15009 JC) includes an update on ~~performance and member views~~

#### INSURANCE

#### Insurance – Regional **MK**

The ITSG continues to meet monthly with representatives from both Gallagher and RMP with the last meeting held 26 November and the next scheduled for 28 January.

Gallagher successfully hosted the LUPC Technical Webinar on 4 November with several topics including an overview of AIG, its participation in the HE sector and broader risk appetite, Business Interruption Risk & Resilience Review (Overview and Case Studies), Risk Management Frameworks – Why do they fail, The Legal Risk Landscape, Crisis Management in the HE Sector, and a Cyber Market Update.

The Annual Service reviews were held in London on 2 December in the presence of the ITSG, Gallagher, RMP, Markel (PI), AIG (Travel), Newline and Protector. The key actions have now been drafted and circulated with these transferred to a Strategic Action Planner to keep a track of progress. Group Members also received a copy of the updated LUPC Benchmarking document for 2025/6, which assists in each identifying where their institution sits in terms of levels of cover purchased compared with similar sized, anonymised institutions within the LUPC Insurance Group.

Following previous negotiations led by Gallagher, RMP had agreed to a 2.5% property rebate to be paid back to the Insurance Group should the loss ratio calculation for that cover resolve itself below 25% for the



2024/5 academic year. This was duly attained with a final total of just under £414,251 allocated to current members.

## LABORATORY/STEMED

### Lab Equipment (General) - LAB5093 LU **AR**

The tender was formally awarded on 15<sup>th</sup> August well in advance of the actual start date.

All onboarding work was carried out this quarter, which included contract administration, Hunter set up, the preparation of all client facing Hunter documents and the creation of a number of new practical tools to support members in identifying cash savings, and to compare and contract the suppliers' equipment whole life cost criteria, energy usage, warranty information and brand coverage.

All supplier onboarding meetings were carried out and the Framework Launch webinar was presented on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. This quarter also saw a high number of bespoke individual sessions with national members to further promote the framework.

### Laboratory Consumables and Chemicals - Inter-Regional (IRLA) – LAB4043 SU **AR**

Framework contract manager Taron Smith will be conducting his framework supplier annual review meetings Decembre and January. He was particularly interested in members' experience with supplier. He approached LUPC for our member feedback that to inform and shape his sessions.

### Lab Gases (IUPC) – National – LAB4060 SU **AR**

Framework went live on 01/11/2025 and the current end date 31/10/2029. It was tendered under PCR2015. The launch webinar was carried out on 12/12/25.

The agreement consists of 11 lots covering the previous product and technical scope, with the inclusion of some other gases. The suppliers are long time incumbent and market leader B.O.C. and two new suppliers: Buse Gases and MIGS.

#### Life Science Equipment, Materials and Services – LAB2010 NE **AR**

NEUPC are looking for technical leads and TWP members for prior member feedback on the current agreement to help inform the procurement strategy, review the current technical scope. In addition, they are also seeking end users and technical leads across all consortia assist with the the bid evaluation. Work on the retender of this agreement will commence in early 2026.

#### Mass Spectrometry and Chromatography Equipment – LAB1029 AP **AR**

**Work to retender this agreement will commence soon** and APUC is looking for subject matter experts to inform part of the TWP for user feedback, technical input and hopefully, bid evaluation.

#### Laboratory – Microscopy and Imaging Equipment – LAB1028 AP **AR**

This agreement was initially going extended only to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2025, however, it will now be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

### LIBRARY

#### Books, e-books and associated services – Inter-regional Agreement – LIB4061 SU **RD**

Framework contract management meetings to be completed in January 2026. Key outputs from the reviews will be shared to members via the library groups.

**Serials, Periodicals, and Associated Services (Print and Digital) – Inter-regional Agreement (SUPC led) – LIB4054 SU RD**

SUPC will commence planning for the next iteration of this framework in Spring 2026. Engagement from LUPC members is excellent with no problems forecast for support once the TWP is assembled.

Framework contract management meetings to be completed in January 2026. Key outputs from the reviews will be shared to members via the library groups.

For further information please refer to [www.hunterpcm.uk/agreements/24867](http://www.hunterpcm.uk/agreements/24867)

**OFFICE**

**Print Solutions (DPS) – PRI3173 NW RD**

Although in its third year this DPS framework continues to add additional suppliers for member use. NWUPC have conducted supplier visits to Autumn, Hickling & Squires and W & G Baird, both of which showcased robust operations in place and advanced print technologies from digital to litho-print production and a range of finishing services. See Hunter for more details on all suppliers (<https://www.hunterpcm.uk/agreements/20679>).

**Debt Recovery Services – National – PFB5062 LU RD**

A review of the framework performance will be conducted January 2026 and a proposal on whether to opt to extend for a fourth and final year. Regardless, work on the next iteration of this framework will commence in 2026 and members with interest in debt recovery should contact [r.dennis@lupc.ac.uk](mailto:r.dennis@lupc.ac.uk)

Full details can be found at <https://www.hecontracts.co.uk/agreements/1084>

#### **National Education Recruitment Advertising and Resourcing Services – PFB4038 SU RD**

SUPC are currently conducting business reviews with the suppliers. The retendering for the next iteration of this framework will commence **early 2026**. Members who wish to support or provide input to the future services and framework design should contact Roy Dennis (r.dennis@lupc.ac.uk).

Full details are available for members in Hunter <https://www.hunterpcm.uk/agreements/24471>

#### **Executive and Senior Strategic Search and Recruitment Services – PFB1037 AP RD**

APUC is now in the early stages of retendering this framework. The ITT will be published mid-January 2026. The new framework should be available to members by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

#### **Global Mobility Services – PFB3160 NW RD**

NWUPC have made available introductory videos for suppliers under this framework. These can be accessed via <https://www.nwupc.ac.uk/frameworks/global-mobility-services-framework-supplier-introductory-recordings/>.

Deel Inc. will be available to members under lot 3 in by February 2026.

#### **Legal Services PA23 – PFB5088 LU RD**

Additional information is being added to Hunter to help members call off from this agreement. All lots have call-off terms and conditions per law firm, pre-populated with company names and registered details, lots, and notice references. Members are left with guidance for completing and highlighted areas which will be specific to the member.

Prospectuses for each law firm are currently being created and added to the lot specific information documents folder. These should be available during January 2026. They will provide an overview of each law firm including key partners and experience in law.

Further information to ease calling off is planned early in 2026.