



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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Other useful contacts:

JISC	https://www.jisc.ac.uk/
TUCO	http://www.tuco.org/
TEC	http://www.tec.ac.uk/

Information correct as of 6 October 2026.

AUDIO VISUAL

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

The agreement has been extended into its final year. Procurement activity has begun on the replacement agreement. Supplier review meetings are being undertaken and NWUPC will engage with members to review the current scope and future requirements. Tender Working Party activity and market engagement will form part of the re-procurement process, which will address sustainability considerations, technological developments and changing investment priorities.

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

The agreement has been extended into its third year to end 18/02/2027. Supplier review meetings were held in April 2026, covering framework performance, spend, sustainability activity and challenging market conditions. Member feedback remained positive overall, and the agreement is likely to continue into its fourth year.

ESTATES

Cleaning and Janitorial Supplies NE – National JG

This agreement is due to expire July 27. It is anticipated that NEUPC will commence the re-tendering process by the end of 2026.

Maintenance Services – National – EFM5090 LU JG

The tender notice for the **Maintenance Services Framework (EFM5090 LU)** was published on 17 June 2026. The framework comprises two Lots:

Lot 1 - Maintenance and Small Works Projects, covering planned and reactive building fabric maintenance, small works projects and external and grounds maintenance, and

Lot 2 - MEP Maintenance, covering the maintenance of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, including HVAC, power distribution, lighting, water systems and associated infrastructure.

The procurement is being conducted using a two-stage Competitive Flexible Procedure. Stage 1 – Participation Stage has now been completed, with shortlisted participants invited to Stage 2 – Tender Stage on 18 September 2026. The deadline for tender submissions is 23 October 2026.

Once awarded, the Framework will be available to members of LUPC, NWUPC, APUC and SUPC, with regional supplier panels established to support local delivery while maintaining UK-wide accessibility.

The Framework is expected to be available to members by the end of January 2027.

Estates & Facilities Management (EFM5059LU) JG

The two maintenance Lots under the LUPC Estates & Facilities Management Services Framework Agreement (EFM5059 LU) were extended to allow time for the procurement of a new Maintenance Services Framework, with Security and Cleaning Services being procured separately.

The existing maintenance Lots will expire on 30 November 2026, while the new Maintenance Services Framework is expected to become available towards the end of January 2027. There

will therefore be a short gap between the two agreements during which these services will not be covered by an LUPC framework.

Washroom Services & Associate Products & Service– National – JAN3181 NW JG

The Washroom Services & Associated Products & Services (JAN3181 NW) Framework continues to operate as expected, with no significant updates to report as it approaches its first anniversary.

Waste Management Services (Sustainable) – National – EFM5076 LU JG

The Waste Management Services (EFM5076 LU) Framework commenced on 26 June 2023. The final 12-month extension option has now been exercised, extending the framework through to 25 June 2027.

Planning for the re-procurement of the framework has commenced, with initial market engagement underway. The detailed procurement timetable will be confirmed following completion of the market engagement phase. Further updates will be provided to stakeholders as the procurement progresses.

ICT

ITS1049AP Academic Integrity and Assessment Management Systems MK

Following Turnitin's recent proposal to release a new EULA (End User Licence Agreement) for their platform and in response the feedback received from the sector, they have confirmed that no changes will be made to the EULA during academic year 2026/27. APUC will continue to work in partnership with UCISA and Turnitin to ensure that any EULA remains aligned to the Framework Agreement Terms and Conditions, which take precedence over the EULA for all call-off contracts awarded under Framework Agreements ITS1025 AP for Similarity Detection Systems and Associated Services. Users should refer to the document titled "Turnitin Joint Statement" within the General Folder on the Hunter portal for details of the discussions that have taken place to date.

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

The next extension period will be coming up shortly to extend the Framework to 13/02/2028, this being the final year of the agreement.

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 August 2026. The NDNA price benchmarking was last updated in September with a further update to be undertaken in October as part of new model introductions. The agreement has now been formerly extended to the end of August 2027 based on a tender release date in mid-November. The revised UKUPC Ts&Cs and ITT templates, however, remain unissued at time of writing.

Hardware pricing remains driven by low inventory levels held by DRAM and NAND suppliers in the wake of unprecedented demand for AI-led infrastructure. With new capacity not on stream until late 2027 at the earliest and some DRAM suppliers order books committed entirely to 2030, the commercial situation remains volatile with SO-DIMM and UDIMM pricing around 10% up in the last 3 months on average; slightly less on NAND (SSD). Latest market analysis indicates that conventional DRAM contract prices are forecast to increase by 10 - 15% QoQ in Q4 2026, while NAND Flash prices are forecast to increase by 15 - 20% QoQ. Regular meetings have been held since early January with the OEMs to establish an agreed, quarterly price point for common DRAM and SSD capacities in conjunction with a formal price notification process providing members with 30 days' notice to place both immediate and forward orders at pre-rise levels. Open book principles are being used with dated OEM invoices examined to help evidence market positions. Formal price notification letters circulated to the NDNA group for sharing with their regional computing groups and loaded to Hunter.

The agreed price variation for the current quarter to late December 2026 applied from the following dates; Dell 1 September, Lenovo 3 September and Stone 20 August for the quarter to 19 November 2026. An agreement could not be reached with HP Inc following their request for substantial component increases on both DRAM and SSD with the market intelligence information to back up their claims. With HP ending support for the appointed resellers through the STM portal, a letter suspending HP from the NDNA from 12 October (inc. 7-days required notice) was issued 5 October following UKUPC Board approval and discussion at the NICT Group meeting held 2 October. The UK arm of HP continues to discuss the situation with their global colleagues in their efforts to either provide additional price support, or the necessary evidence.

Further to Electronics Watch quarterly Monitoring Status Report on internal and external power supply manufacturer Delta Electronics and concerns around potential discrimination, excessive working hours, unfair wages, forced labour and occupational health and safety issues, some progress has been made with HP and Dell. Frustratingly, new in-country legislation within China is hampering efforts to provide certainty on the closure of the highlighted issues.

The Dell framework lead and wider ESG team were given the following actions in late September, as summarised below:

- Check the last submitted Factory Disclosure Form information confirmed at the start of the year for any notable changes and advise.
- Consider advised, additional models for inclusion and communicate with the expected timeline, any exclusions based on perceived low-volume and/or low-value.
- Consider and advise timelines the inclusion of the new Ultra Series 3 (Panther Lake) Dell Pro x notebooks as part of the recent transition.

Computing – General Matters not covered elsewhere MK

The National ICT Group (NICT) continues to regularly meet 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 NICT monthly operational meeting was held 2 October with the next set for 6 November. Separately, the Strategic NICT Group meetings have agreed to convene every 4 months with the most recent set aside to discuss the main strategy, and task assignment in line with the National Category Group initiative and demanded by the SPG (Strategy Procurement Group). The next on 16 October follows on from the previous meeting held in September. LUPC hold the present Chairmanship and delivered a presentation to the SPG on 9 October setting out History, Meetings and Roles, Group Aspirations, Expenditure, Key Frameworks, Market Challenges, Threats and Proposed Solutions.

The second edition of the updated [Market Insights](#) eBook for ICT was likewise completed as a group undertaking during early October and communicated to members. The new report included tighter definitions around Labour, Supply Chain, Regulatory Developments and Commercial risks.

SUPC are working with JISC to determine the need for a framework covering Curriculum Management & Timetabling Software and Associated Services. Indications are strong at present; the plan is to undertake pre-market engagement with suppliers and members from October. Please contact [Carol Murphy](#) if interested in contributing to the research.

Student Management Systems & Associated Services (ITS1068 AP) is planned to commence from spring 2027 with a consultation process with the sector. Sessions with registry colleagues, UCISA and the FE sector were undertaken between June and September while market engagement sessions are in progress with the sector group. APUC is open to nominees to join the User Intelligence Group (UIG) to be provide input to the strategy and process; volunteers should contact [Peter Jackson](#) at APUC.

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.

Jisc digital updates can be signed up to at [Procurement and supplier management - Jisc](#)

Computing - Library Management Systems & Associated Services - ITS1062 AP RD

APUC are currently in the process of extending both lots 1 and 2 with the suppliers. The framework will be available to members until 2028/2029.

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

David Harrison has retired from Sharp, to be replaced by Danny Walden Education Sales Director for sales (Sharp's head Office has moved from Wakefield to Leeds).

Both Sharp and DTP attended NEUPC Connect. The managed print reseller 'Agilico' are potentially looking to join as a reseller mainly in Scotland / the North.

The current Epson reseller 'sensible choice' is to be rebranded as 'CommITed', there is no change in personnel. Ricoh have in place an agreed increase to hardware and click charges of 4.45% on the framework.

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

The Customer survey has been completed, though just two responses were received with the Pipeline notice for the re-procurement issued via FTS. The re-procurement strategy is in the draft stage with a Competitive Flexible procedure proposed including a merger of low value and core projects into one Lot. The initial tender working party request is completed, with two responses. Timeline to be finalized for the next framework and specialist input will be required for the scenarios used in the tender. If you wish to input into the re-procurement please contact Paul Eagleton - p.eagleton@neupc.ac.uk. The current framework is extended to June 2027, with the Buyer's Guide refreshed.

Computing - Online Streaming and Online Training Services 2 - ITS1058 AP MK

APUC are part-way through a series of webinars with some of the new suppliers on ITS1058 AP Online Streaming and Online Training Services (2). The dates and registration links are:

Panopto EMEA Ltd. – 7 October @1400 [Panopto Webinar](#)

IPM Training Limited – 14 October @1100 [IPM Training Webinar](#)

UbiCast – 28 October @1000 [UbiCast Webinar](#)

Each session will last approximately an hour, including a 15-min Q&A.

Computing - PCs with Apple Operating Systems - National - ITS3028 NW (NEW) MK

Since the substantial and immediate price increases implemented by Apple in late June 2026, NWUPC has continued to work closely with framework suppliers to maintain the framework's cost-plus pricing principles and confirm that any pricing changes should apply only to call-offs made from 24 June.

NWUPC has sought to address member concerns regarding delayed deliveries, pricing uncertainty and supply chain disruption arising from Apple's product transition cycle. Academia confirmed that original pricing would be honoured for qualifying orders placed before the June increase where stock remained available. Configure-to-Order (CTO) devices were generally honoured at the original price but became subject to extended lead times due to production backlogs.

For some standard devices that were on back-order when the increases were announced, pricing treatment remained uncertain. In addition, Apple classified several products as obsolete, resulting in some members having to consider replacement models at higher prices towards financial year-end. Suppliers have advised that significant disruption has arisen from the combination of product transitions and pricing changes.

NWUPC has continued to engage with suppliers and members to provide updates, seek clarity on affected orders, challenge poor practices where appropriate, and ensure that revised framework pricing reflects only changes to Apple List Pricing in accordance with the framework agreement. Updated supplier pricing documentation is available on Hunter.

NWUPC has commenced the annual framework price review with all four appointed suppliers. The review will assess supplier pricing submissions and any proposed supply-rate changes in accordance with the agreement's cost-plus pricing model. Suppliers are required to evidence any requested changes, while cost-to-serve and margin arrangements are expected to remain unchanged unless exceptionally justified.

NWUPC will continue to monitor supplier performance and compliance with both framework and call-off obligations, and wider market developments affecting Apple products.

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

Nathan Tapp has left SUPC and Robert McKechnie has taken on the framework full-time. PME is being redone as SUPC received comments from suppliers and institutions that not all was captured in the initial process. The framework will need to be extended beyond the end of January 2027.

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

APUC is assessing the need for a future agreement and meeting with suppliers and institutions to gauge interest.

In September, Kinetic's recently launched cloud-based (SaaS) 'Celcat' timetabling software was made available to institutions under Lot 5 (Multi-Functional Systems) as an associated product. While their original product offering Celcat Connect remains available to existing customers, new customers will only be offered Celcat AI. There is currently no planned sunset date for Connect. APUC will be hosting a Celcat webinar on Monday 12 October at 1030. The session will take approximately one hour, during which the team from Celcat will provide a demonstration of their new solution followed by a 20-minute Q&A. If you have any questions, please contact [Lorona Watts](#). You can join the [Teams Meeting here](#).

Computing - Student Information Systems and Associated Services ITS1050 AP MK

Tribal announced on 11 September 2026 that it has been acquired by Main Capital Partners (Main Capital - Accelerate Enterprise Software businesses together), a Netherlands-based private equity firm with Eur12bn AUM. Unlike the previous takeover by Ellucian, there is no direct competition and therefore no CMA process. The sale is only subject to Shareholder approval and NSIA clearance under the National Security and Investment Act. The shareholder meeting is due to take place on 2 October. Nothing will change until the acquisition is approved or otherwise. Further e-Zine updates on the progress of the acquisition will be made available in the weeks ahead. APUC is working with UCISA rep group to communicate to the sector on progress. All Buyers Guide documents for the student management system framework are available on the Hunter portal and for further information on the framework please contact [Peter Jackson](#).

Jisc Data Centre Framework - ITS5031 LU MK

The Jisc/AQL Framework Agreement under the Shared Data Centre service expired on 22 August 2026 and is not being extended. The SDC agreement with Virtus continues as normal until July 2029. Similarly, the DC Referral Agreements with Kao Data and Equinix are also unaffected by this change. Buyers should contact the Framework contracts team on frameworkcontracts@jisc.ac.uk if they have any questions.

Jisc SMS Framework – ITS5077 LU MK

Jisc are currently tendering for a new group messaging framework to replace the existing Janet txt framework when it expires. The procurement timeline is being extended to allow sufficient time for a robust and fair evaluation of all the tender submissions. This means there will be a short gap between the expiry of the Janet txt framework and the launch of its replacement.

The Janet txt framework expires on 31 October 2026, with the new group messaging framework currently expected to be available in early January 2027. For institutions, this means:

- Existing contracts remain unaffected, any contracts already awarded through the Janet txt framework will continue in accordance with their agreed terms and conditions. You do not need to take any action.
- If you plan to procure a new group messaging solution through a Jisc framework, please take the gap between frameworks into account when planning your procurement timeline. If you anticipate needing a new group messaging service in place before January 2027, please contact your Jisc relationship manager as early as possible to discuss your options.

If you would like to discuss your future messaging requirements, have any questions, or wish to learn more about the upcoming group messaging framework, please contact your Jisc relationship manager or frameworkcontracts@jisc.ac.uk.

Jisc Telecommunications - ITS5086 LU MK

Jisc is currently tendering for a new Telecommunications framework which will replace the existing framework when it expires. Supplier meetings have taken place, and buyers can provide any feedback to the Framework contracts team on frameworkcontracts@jisc.ac.uk or get in touch if you have any questions.

INSURANCE

Insurance – Regional MK

The ITSG continues to meet monthly with representatives from both Gallagher and RMP with the last monthly account management (MAM) meeting held 24 September and the next scheduled for 22 October to progress any new or outstanding actions towards their closure. A separate ITSG Closed meeting was held 17 September with draft minutes circulated to the ITSG for comment, which included feedback delivered to Gallagher at the session one week later.

The LUPC annual renewal process was completed in time for the final year across the main insurance programme commencing 1 August 2026. Gallagher also shared an update around *Projects on Existing Buildings / Insurance Guidance and Support* following a review of additional premiums applied for existing buildings where these are subject to works. The second round of 1:1 client engagement sessions, including key themes, areas of focus and next steps, have now been diarised with the six members selected.

Following a decision not to renew our Airmic Corporate membership through lack of event usage, LUPC has taken up and covered the cost of ALARM Corporate Membership from 1 October 2026. This runs to the end of 2027 whereupon we will assess overall usage. Full details on ALARM and its benefits can be found in the present membership brochure as attached (or can be found [here](#)). The negotiated rate for the entire group is intended to cover a maximum 8 places per event (in-person or virtual) and 2 per IG member on a first-come-first-served basis albeit, ALARM will attempt to cover additional places if the event is virtual.

Preparations for the next tender continue. A joint webinar presentation by LUPC and Gallagher was delivered to LUPC and SUPC members on 29 September re: *“An Overview of the LUPC Insurance Group: The Benefits of a Consortium Approach to Insurance”*. With the session including various stops for attendee Q&A, a clean recording is in the pipeline for sharing with those wishing to either catch-up on the content or watch for the first time. The session explored:

- How Gallagher, the appointed broker to the LUPC Insurance Group, uses the collective strength of the LUPC Insurance Group to negotiate with insurers and secure favourable terms.
- The benefits smaller institutions gain from being part of a larger insurance programme.
- How a consortium approach can improve resilience and support following significant claims.
- How Gallagher's market relationships help secure stronger claims advocacy and access to key insurer decision-makers.
- How members benefit from horizon scanning, benchmarking, and insight into emerging sector and insurance market risks.

The next ITSG & Gallagher strategy meeting is being held 12 October. Its aim is to discuss and determine the best overall strategy for the next LUPC Insurance Programme and will include discussions on several points including:

- the maximisation of both commercial and non-price benefits through the aggregated procurement including how best to structure the tender to achieve this;
- procurement strategies - How to engage markets positively and for best group outcomes
- information gathering proposals;
- ensuring compliance with PA23 Sec 82 re: duty to mitigate identifiable and/or potential conflicts of interest;
- lessons learnt from the previous insurance procurements, including Financial Lines (PA23);
- future Pre-Tender Market Engagement;
- external competition threats; and
- ensuring commitment from the wider group.

Gallagher also plan to put together a deep-dive health check on two members as the next tender approaches.

LABORATORY/STEMED

High Value Laboratory Equipment (HVLE) – LAB3020 NW **AR**

NWUPC published the Preliminary Market Engagement (UK4) notice for tr retender of this agreement on 2nd of October 2026, to alert the market of the upcoming tender process.

NWUPC was also recruiting TWP to help shape the next agreement, and published a HVLE User Survey. This is to capture customer comments and thoughts of the current agreement, in order to help inform the HVLE Commodity Strategy document, to continue to meet client requirements and expectations in this fast moving, innovative sub category.

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

The first anniversary of this agreement was on 15th of October 2026. Annual supplier review meetings will be set up for late October / early November.

A framework user workshop will be delivered in November 2026, where the contract manager will present and demonstrate the various commercial tools available to customers who use this agreement.

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

Due to the ongoing volatility in the middle east and its effect on global oil markets, BOC will be increasing the fuel surcharge for LAB4060 SU deliveries to customers. The new surcharges will apply from 1st November 2026, and will be exclusive of VAT.

Life Science Equipment, Materials and Services – LAB2012 NE AR

The first Tender Working Party meeting session was carried out on 11th August 2026, hosted by the Contract Manager at NEUPC. The session focussed on reviewing the key ITT documentation (award questionnaire, T&Cs, etc.) and capturing thoughts and feedback from the TWP.

The current iteration of the agreement is still very much fit for purpose and at this stage we don't envisage any major changes in the scope or call off mechanisms. However, increased effort will be made to expand on the current number of suppliers under Lot 3, Services which comprises of 6 suppliers.

Mass Spectrometry and Chromatography Equipment – LAB1029 AP AR

In order to accommodate the conclusion of the re tender exercise for this agreement, LAB1029 AP was extended by one month, and will now end on 30th October 2026.

The replacement agreement (LAB1040 AP) is currently scheduled to go live on 1st of November 2026.

Laboratory – Microscopy and Imaging Equipment – LAB1047 AP AP AR

This agreement went live as planned on the 1st of September 2026, replacing the previous iteration, LAB1028 AP.

The agreement now comprises of 29 suppliers across all lots, versus 19 suppliers in the previous iteration.

The official framework launch webinar, presented by APUC, took place on the 23rd of September 2026.

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

SUPC are now working on the tender for the next version of this framework agreement. Pre-market engagement will happen during October 2026. LUPC members are engaged with this process. The ITT is anticipated to be issued in January 2027.

For further information please refer to www.hunterpcm.uk/agreements/24867

OFFICE

Office, Paper, EOS & Library Supplies (OPELS) – OFF3166 NW RD

The extension of the current framework through 2028 is currently in progress. This will be reflected in Hunter by the end of October 2026.

Print Solutions (DPS) – PRI3173 NW RD

This framework has been extended to its fourth and final year. See Hunter for full details of this framework and the suppliers. (<https://www.hunterpcm.uk/agreements/20679>).

Debt Recovery Services – National – PFB5062 LU RD

The acquisition of Legal Recoveries on lot 1 by Wilkin Chapman in lot 2 has completed. The obligations of Legal Recoveries to provide continuity of services including terms, services, and pricing have been retained by Wilkin Chapman. Staff dedicated to the support of student debt recovery continue to work on member instructions with no immediate staff or site changes planned.

LUPC are now working on the next iteration of the Debt Recovery framework. Members who wish to input to the future framework design should contact Roy Dennis as soon as possible. A full timeline will be issued shortly.

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

Executive and Senior Strategic Search and Recruitment Services – PFB1048 AP PFB1037 AP RD

This framework replaces PFB1037 AP.

The framework provides LUPC members with the following specialist recruitment services:

Lot 3 : Executive Search – South

Lot 5 : Senior Specialist Search – South

Lot 6 : Chairs of Court and members of governing committees and boards

APUC will be providing supporting documents on Hunter under lot 6 shortly.

See <https://www.hunterpcm.uk/agreements/45165> for further details.

Financial Services– National – PFB3114 NW RD

This framework has expired. NWUPC have started the research for its replacement PFB3203 NW. Further details and its timeline will be provided shortly. It is anticipated that this will be available to LUPC members later in 2027.

Occupational Health and Wellbeing for Students and Staff – PFB5072 LU RD

Optima Health has recently acquired PAM Group. Both are suppliers awarded to Lot 1 – National Occupational Health and EAP services. LUPC are currently working with PAM Group to understand the impacts of the acquisition to the framework and members. At this time PAM Group remain a separate legal entity and can continue to provide services under the framework agreement.

Updates will be provided to members when known.

<https://www.hecontracts.co.uk/agreements/1140>

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TRAVEL

Travel Management Services – PFB4053 SU RD
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SUPC are now tendering early for the replacement of this framework.

Indicative timelines are as follows:

- Late August / Early September – Initial meeting to introduce ourselves, outline strategy and key date milestones
- Autumn & Winter – Several meetings and opportunities to review and provide feedback on the specification, evaluation approach and other tender documentation.
- Spring into Summer 2027 – Evaluation of tender responses (currently expected to commence April but could involve several rounds dependent on procurement route).

Members who wish to input to the TWP should contact Izzy Mackenzie at SUPC.

It is envisaged that the current framework will run in parallel to the new framework providing wider options to LUPC members.