SEGfL Education Broadband Offers

SEGfL has used OJEU compliant processes to sign agreements with 5 suppliers[1] of broadband and ISP services. We believe that by utilising the SEGfL agreements, through mini-competition, schools and academies will enjoy the benefits of a pre-competed and safe procurement route, economies of scale and huge breadth of services.

SEGfL can manage this in a number of ways. An LA may assume the procurement responsibility on behalf of most of the schools within its boundaries, an individual school may wish to coordinate procurements for a handful of neighbouring schools, or a school may simply like to operate individually. SEGfL has processes in place to cope with any of these scenarios and their resultant contractual arrangements.

Systems Integration

As with other ISPs, we offer a range of services that include connectivity, management, security, eSafety, email and so on. These will come from many suppliers that need to be managed and coordinated if the whole service is to function properly. All too often the suppliers in a supply chain pass responsibilities back and forth so that problems are never resolved.

SEGfL suppliers act as prime contractor for all broadband services, having sub-contracts in place with their suppliers. They take full responsibility for their services and benchmark all available suppliers in order to ensure that the technologies and services offered are fit for purpose, of high quality and offer value for money. On your behalf and by using the purchasing power of multiple contracts held regionally and nationally, our suppliers negotiate attractive pricing, commercial terms and service levels with their supply chain. Importantly, they also act as a single point of contact for ordering, billing and invoicing.

Standards-compliant solutions

SEGfL has worked with its partners to specify the standards that other suppliers aspire to. By providing networked application solutions based on these standards, schools can be reassured that:

- pupils can access digital resources in a secure and appropriate environment;
- teachers are assisted in transforming learning experiences by being able to call upon digital resources when planning and delivering the curriculum.

Connectivity

By working with all telcos, SEGfL is able to ensure that the most appropriate connection method is used. The bandwidth capability of copper-based access technology is affected by copper quality and distance from the exchange. Often fibre access is proposed as copper-based access will not support the minimum bandwidth requirements. The costs and benefits of solutions will always be discussed with the schools.

Network Management

SEGfL operates a range of network management systems that are used to monitor and manage network elements, servers, services and infrastructure that is used. These tools

1 The SEGfL Suppliers are Capita IT Services, Easynet Global Services, MDNX Managed Services, Redcentric and RM Education

are able to handle failure, and trigger alarms when a threshold is violated. In that way, we are pro-actively fixing faults before they are noticed.

Education Services

Either as part of a managed service or as offers from our extensive catalogue, SEGfL can offer any services a school or group of schools may need. Schools simply need to list their requirements at the mini competition stage and our suppliers will bid against each other to offer the best solution to suit your requirements and your budget. SEGfL is a one-stop shop that can offer proven best value services to schools and academies in the region[2].

The SEGfL Buying Association

We are constantly trying to expand the benefits to schools of SEGfL membership. Already, we are able to offer licensing advice and attractive discounts on software through our partner, Softcat, but we are soon to expand this service to include IT hardware and networking within schools. Keep an eye on sba.segfl.org.uk for details or register for the latest news and offers and access to free resources through our NEN partner providers.

2 The SEGfL region is the geographical area bounded by 18 local authorities, Bracknell Forest, Brighton & Hove, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Reading, Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough, Southampton, Surrey, West Berkshire, West Sussex and Wokingham.