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Award

Further Education Network Connectivity and Cyber Security Services (FENCCSS)

Department for Education

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057860

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059d41 ([view related notices](#))

Published 18 September 2025, 4:31pm

Scope

Reference

project_9790

Description

Contract to provide Connectivity, Cyber Security and Specialist Advisory Services to the Further Education sector in England.

Overview of services required

DfE is proposing to contract with Jisc to deliver a comprehensive digital infrastructure and support service for the Further Education (FE) sector in England via the Janet Network. The Janet Network is the UK's sole National Research and Education Network (NREN) linking up to the Gigabit European Academic Network (GÉANT), the pan-European data network for the research and education community. The tertiary education sector including FE relies on the Janet Network for IT connectivity and cyber security (CS) (please also see "Direct award justification" below).

The digital infrastructure and support services for the FE sector will encompass robust connectivity, sector-wide cyber security, and strategic ICT guidance.

1. Connectivity

- Private WAN: Secure, resilient, symmetrical network connecting all In-Scope Institutions.
- Dual Connections: Each institution to benefit from a second connection for improved resilience.
- Performance Standards: High bandwidth (800Gb/s), high speed (1Gb/s), low latency (1-5ms), minimal packet loss and jitter.
- Scalability & Upgrades: Network must scale with demand and support upgrades via separate contracts.
- Interoperability: Direct access to global NRENs, GEANT, cloud platforms, and peering with relevant public and private networks.
- Managed Services: Includes router management, DNS, IP address registry, network monitoring, maintenance (including hardware refresh) and support.
- Network security: threat-driven, risk-based approach to implementing physical and virtual security measures to pre-empt and respond to emerging threats.

2. Cyber Security (please also see "Direct award justification" below)

- Sector-Wide Scope: Services extend beyond the network to cover the entire UK tertiary education sector.
- Threat Detection: Uses UK tertiary education-specific data to identify vulnerabilities and sector-unique threats.
- CSIRT: A 24/7/365 incident response team offering expert support and coordinating multi-institutional responses.
- Intelligence Sharing: Disseminates threat insights across the sector to improve collective resilience.
- Government Integration: Collaborates with NCSC and other agencies; reports major incidents within 1-2 hours.
- Quarterly Reporting: Includes incident summaries, trends, and recommendations for

improvement.

3. Strategic Advice and Guidance (SAAG)

- Proactive Sector-Wide Guidance: Free advice on ICT use in FE, covering (but not restricted to) curriculum, cyber security, cloud, AI, mergers, Ofsted improvement, and emerging technologies.
- Bespoke Support: Customised advice available under separate contracts.
- Named Relationship Managers: Each institution has a dedicated contact for ICT queries and access to SAAG.
- Multi-Channel Delivery: Guidance provided via blogs, webinars, training, case studies, and more.
- Performance & Reporting: Must meet service standards and be reported quarterly to the Buyer.

Unique Requirements

The proposed services reflect the unique requirements of the FE sector (please also see "Direct award justification" below), combining:

- National-level infrastructure and cyber resilience,
- Sector-specific intelligence and threat response, and
- Strategic ICT leadership and policy support.

Contract 1. Further Education Network Connectivity and Cyber Security Services (FENCCSS)

Supplier

- Jisc

Contract value

- £42,000,000 excluding VAT
- £50,400,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

17 September 2025

Standstill period

- End: 29 September 2025
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026
- Possible extension to 30 September 2028
- 3 years

Description of possible extension:

The Authority may exercise the option to extend the contract by providing the Supplier with no less than 3 months written notice before the contract expires.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 32412110 - Internet network
- 48730000 - Security software package
- 72220000 - Systems and technical consultancy services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Supplier

Jisc

- Companies House: 05747339

4 Portwall Lane

Bristol

BS1 6NB

United Kingdom

Email: funders@jisc.ac.uk

Website: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/>

Region: UKK11 - Bristol, City of

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Further Education Network Connectivity and Cyber Security Services (FENCCSS)

Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P3BT

United Kingdom

Email: PolicyAssurance.COMMERCIALQUERIES@education.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government