



JISC awards CMS contract to Eduserv

Following a competitive tender process, Eduserv has secured the new contract to implement a Content Management System (CMS) for the JISC website. This is a six-month project that will be delivered in partnership with the JISC web team.

JISC's existing bespoke CMS has been in place for many years and they were looking for a robust and sustainable solution to manage the large and ever-increasing content on their website. Content authorship is devolved within JISC to give individuals responsibility for maintaining their own areas of the site. For this reason it is vital that non-technical users should be able to easily create and manipulate content. Websites do not work in isolation and it was essential that the JISC website had the potential to interoperate with other systems when required. The existing bespoke CMS could not be developed cost effectively to meet these demands.

Eduserv has a strong reputation and a proven track record of delivering innovative solutions to meet the most demanding online requirements. Eduserv will be implementing the CMS capability using Sitecore which is an advanced CMS supporting open standards. Sitecore will manage multiple sites, including extranets and intranets, so all web content can easily be managed from one place. The CMS user interface will enable users with limited technical skills to fully operate the system. It is also flexible enough to allow future changes in design and structure.

“Eduserv submitted an excellent bid and made a confidence-inspiring presentation to the evaluation panel. They have a good reputation in the sector and are a 'known quantity' as JISC already has a relationship with them for the provision of other services. The proposed solution is flexible, based upon open standards and, critically, user-friendly.”

Ben Whitehouse, Web Development Co-ordinator, Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)

Users of the JISC web site will see an improvement in appearance, performance and usability. Users with special needs will also benefit from improved accessibility. The new web site is targeted to be launched in the summer of 2006.

“JISC leadership, coordination and advice are key assets of the UK further and higher education sectors. We believe the implementation of Sitecore CMS will significantly enhance the JISC's ability to communicate effectively through its web presence and we are delighted to have this opportunity to contribute.”

Stephen Butcher, Chief Executive, Eduserv

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Notes

¹ Eduserv is a not-for-profit IT services group, born from services developed within universities. It delivers innovative technology services predominantly to the public sector and the information industry.

www.eduserv.org.uk

² JISC – the Joint Information Systems Committee – is a joint committee of the UK further and higher education funding bodies (HEFCE), and is responsible for supporting the innovative use of information and communication technology (ICT) to support learning, teaching, and research. It is best known for providing the JANET network, a range of support, content and advisory services, and a portfolio of high-quality resources. Information about JISC, its services and programmes can be found at

www.jisc.ac.uk/