The challenge
When it comes to finding an estates consultant or contractor, university procurement teams can choose from a vast array of frameworks. Some are sector-specific, but for more specialist requirements, one option may be to look more widely, such as at NHS frameworks or housing consortia. Keeping up-to-date with everything that is available can be incredibly time-consuming for procurement teams.

The increasing complexity of higher education projects can also mean that they need to find different approaches and new contractors that they are not familiar with.

What happened?
The SUPC Estates Group, which is open to all members, met four times during the year. Attendees heard from a range of framework providers, including Pagabo, the Procurement consortium, LHC and suppliers who work in the estates marketplace. This gave members a chance to learn about relevant frameworks and developments in the market.

They also shared their own challenges and experiences with estates-related procurement activity. They learnt from each other and identified suitable options for their institution.

The outcome
Members of the group benefitted in a number of ways, including:
• More quickly and easily identified suitable framework options to solve their institution’s requirements.
• Developed increased knowledge of suitable consultants and contractors, many of whom can contribute to estates improvements that benefit students.
• Kept their own industry knowledge up-to-date, for example learning about changes to NEC. This has helped in conversations with internal estates colleagues.

SUPC Estates Group acts as signpost and support in a busy market

For More Information
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Sign-posting from SUPC is hugely beneficial because there are so many potential frameworks that I cannot hold information on all the options.

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