

RM appointed preferred bidder for Leeds City Council Building Schools for the Future ICT Contract

RM has been appointed by Leeds City Council as preferred bidder for the Authority's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Strategic ICT Partner contract. Leeds City Council's BSF programme will initially cover 14 schools, serving approximately 16,500 pupils.

Under the terms of the contract, RM will design, implement and deliver a sophisticated managed ICT service, including PC networks in each of the 14 schools linked through a central data centre. As well as ICT infrastructure RM will provide other services, including continuing professional development and strategic ICT development advice, to Education Leeds, which provides Leeds City Council's frontline education service.

Commenting on the contract, Tim Pearson, CEO of RM, said:

"It's great news that Leeds City Council wants us to work with them as strategic ICT partner for their BSF programme. We look forward to a partnership with the Authority and schools in Leeds that will provide innovative and educationally useful technology to build on the work of Education Leeds in improving education outcomes in the city."

Chris Edwards, Chief Executive of Education Leeds, said:

"BSF will give thousands of our children and young people a brilliant, inspiring learning environment. RM has clearly demonstrated an innovative and flexible approach which will add genuine value to our approach to creating transformational learning environments. This partnership with RM will deliver state-of-the-art technology and training which can help our children, young people and our colleagues in school to achieve their best."

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, said:

"We are very pleased that Leeds City Council have chosen their ICT partner for BSF, and look forward to working with Leeds, RM and the Council's chosen construction partners on transforming the city's secondary school education provision."

- Ends -

For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

The RM Group is a leading provider of educational products and services to schools, colleges and universities, local government and central government education departments and agencies. Founded in 1973, RM works closely with educationalists to use new products, processes and technology to improve teaching and learning and is recognised as a leading innovator in the educational information and communications technology (ICT) arena.

This is the third – and largest – BSF project RM has won. In February 2006 the Group announced it had signed the first BSF ICT contract to be awarded, a £6.4 million contract with Solihull Council. In September the Group announced that it had been appointed preferred bidder by Stoke-on-Trent City Council for its BSF ICT contract.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a £45 billion Department for Education and Skills initiative that will rebuild or substantially refurbish all English secondary schools over the next 10-15 years. A key part of the initiative is to ensure that schools develop a sustainable ICT strategy focused on improving teaching and learning. Partnerships for Schools, the government agency responsible for delivering the BSF programme, has set a budget of £1,450 per pupil (over five years) for the delivery of managed ICT services in BSF schools.