

12 May 2015

Re: Provision of €7m for the supply of hardware to schools for use in Design and Communications Graphics.

Dear Principal,

The Minister for Education and Skills Jan O’Sullivan T.D. announced on 15th October 2014 the provision of €7m for the supply of software and hardware to schools for use in Design and Communications Graphics (DCG).

I now write to inform you that the sum of €x,xxx will be paid directly into your school’s bank account under this scheme. Please note this funding must be used for the purchase of desktop and/or notebook computers for DCG. School compliance may be subject to audit.

The Department had originally proposed that funding would be based on average candidate numbers who sat DCG in the Leaving Certificate between 2012 and 2014 plus funding for one additional computer for teaching purposes in the DCG Department. However, due to numerous representations from Education Partners and schools indicating an increase in the numbers of students studying DCG, the grant amounts will be calculated as follows: 3 year average of 2012 to 2014 or 4 year average of 2012 to 2015, plus funding for one additional computer for teaching purposes in the DCG Department. Funding will be awarded on whichever is the higher of the two averages. Funding is based on a grant of €1,150 per computer.

As the Department is providing public funding, schools **should** purchase the computers from the successful suppliers, via the Departments drawdown facility. This drawdown facility was put in place following a public procurement competition which included comprehensive testing and evaluation. The computers are specially customised to meet the demands of running SolidWorks in a classroom environment and achieved the highest score in a public tender competition coordinated by the Department of Education and Skills and involving PDST, the State Examinations Commission (SEC), the Inspectorate, a number of highly experienced DCG teachers/practitioners and PDST Technology in Education.

Desktop

The Fujitsu Celsius 530 Mini Tower PC is the approved computer for Irish schools. The approved supplier is ‘SmartSchools’. (www.smartschools.ie). The cost for the Mini Tower PC is €1,135.02 incl VAT.

Notebook

The Lenovo Thinkpad W541 is the approved Notebook for Irish schools. The approved supplier is ‘PC Peripherals’ (www.pcp.ie). The cost for the Notebook is €1,351.77 incl VAT.

Full details on how to order the Mini Tower PC & Notebook computers, including order forms, are available at www.t4.ie.

The Department of Education and Skills following a separate public procurement process has procured CAD software i.e. SolidWorks Education Edition 2015 and associated services from Solid Solutions Ireland (www.solidsolutions.ie). The Department of Education and Skills has purchased this software directly and the monies paid are additional to the monies being disseminated in grants to schools. All computers purchased through the Department drawdown facility will be shipped to schools with SolidWorks Education Edition 2015 and Microsoft Windows 7 Professional operating system (64 bit) preinstalled. Any additional software is the responsibility of the school to install.

Schools must purchase the computers before the end of December 2015 to ensure compliance with Circular: 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds. Please refer to: circulars.gov.ie/pdf/circular/per/2014/13.pdf.

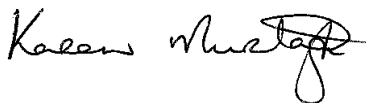
Professional Development & Training will be provided for DCG teachers in the new CAD software. A professional development plan is being formulated at present by the PDST and will be communicated to schools once agreed.

Schools are reminded of their obligations in relation to Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts, 1997 and 2003.

Please refer to the T4 website (www.t4.ie) for FAQ document in relation to this funding scheme.

Any queries in relation to this letter should be addressed by email to Karen Murtagh at ictpolicy@education.gov.ie or by telephone to (01) 889 6413 or Pat Lynch at patlynch@pdst.ie.

Yours sincerely



Karen Murtagh
Assistant Principal Officer
Department of Education

T4 - Design and Communications Graphics (DCG) – Mini Tower PC

Following a comprehensive formal evaluation/and testing process to select a suitable high quality product and supplier of CAD PCs using Solidworks in DCG/ subject areas in Post Primary schools, the Fujitsu Celsius 530 Mini Tower PC has been approved. This product achieved the highest score in a public tender competition coordinated by the Department of Education and Skills and involving PDST, the State Examinations Commission (SEC), the Inspectorate, a number of highly experienced DCG teachers/practitioners and PDST Technology in Education. A summary of the Mini Tower PC specification is given below. **The approved supplier of the product is 'SmartSchools', www.smartschools.ie.** Full details on how to order the MiniTower PC & Notebook computers, including order forms, are available at www.t4.ie.

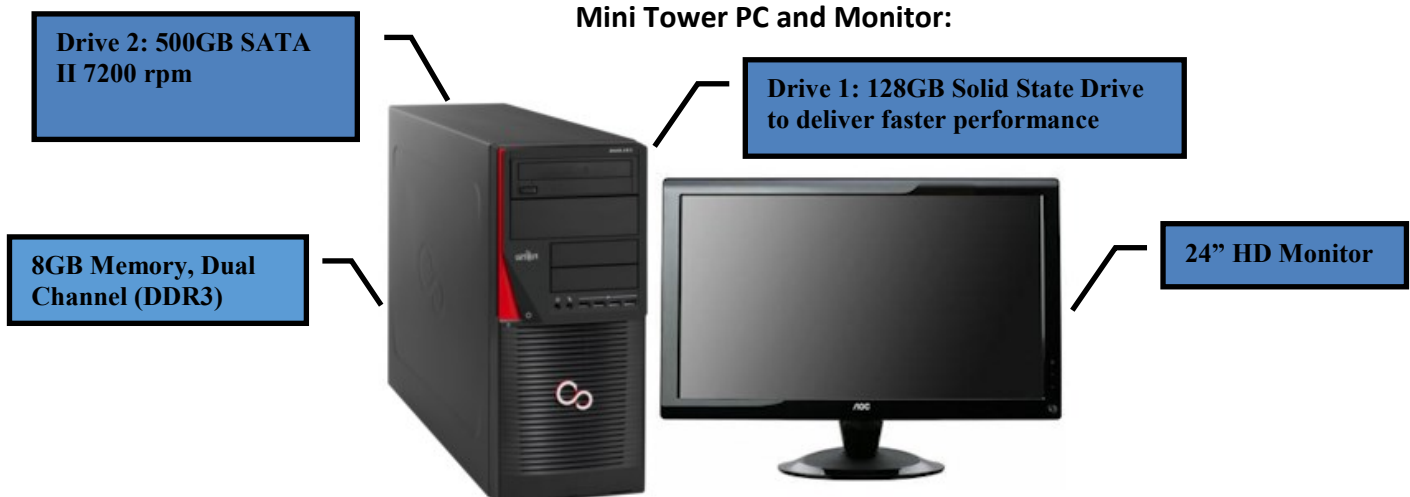
Fujitsu Celsius 530

- Solidworks 2015 3D CAD software is already pre-installed
- High performance Intel i7-4790 Processor, 3.6GHz (8MB smart cache)
- Microsoft Windows 7 Professional Operating System (64 bit) (includes upgrade/recovery media disks)
- 8GB Memory, Dual Channel (DDR3)
- 500GB Hard Disk Drive (SATA II 7200 rpm)
- 128GB solid state memory - additional 'hard drive' (for faster performance)
- 24 x CD-RW/ 16 x DVD combo drive
- Internal 10/100/1000 Ethernet (RJ45)
- NVidia Quadro K620 (2GB) High Resolution Graphics Card (1680 x 1050)
- 24" Display Monitor (Height Adjustable, LED) with 1980x1080 with High Definition (HD) resolution
- 24 x CD-RW/ 16 x DVD combo drive
- Internal 10/100/1000 Ethernet (RJ45)
- 9 x USB ports with 4 front-mounted; (4 USB 3 Ports, 2 front mounted) Video port; Combo Stereo headphone mic/jack; RJ-45 connection
- USB Scroll Mouse (cabled), QWERTY keyboard with euro symbol and numeric keypad.

Warranty: 3 year Next Business Day Onsite Warranty (provided as standard); an additional 2 year warranty is available as an optional extra

Cost: €1,135.02 (PC Tower + 24" Monitor, Including VAT & delivery). Refer to order form for additional options.

Mini Tower PC and Monitor:



www.smartschools.ie/t4; www.t4.ie

T4 - Design and Communications Graphics (DCG) – Notebook/Laptop

Following comprehensive testing and evaluation the Lenovo Thinkpad W541 is the approved Notebook/Laptop chosen to run the SolidWorks 3D CAD software for the DCG subject in Post Primary schools. This computer was specially customised to meet the demands of running SolidWorks in a classroom environment and achieved the highest score in a public tender competition coordinated by the Department of Education and Skills and involving PDST, the State Examinations Commission (SEC), the Inspectorate, a number of highly experienced DCG teachers/practitioners and PDST Technology in Education. A summary of the Notebook specification is given below. The approved supplier of the product is 'PC Peripherals', (www.pcp.ie). Full details on how to order the MiniTower PC & Notebook computers, including order forms, are available at www.t4.ie.

Lenovo Thinkpad W541 Notebook:

- Solidworks 2015 3D CAD software is already pre-installed
- Intel Core i7-4700MQ 4th Generation Quad Core processor – 2.8GHz, 6MB Cache
- Microsoft Windows 7 Professional Operating System (64 bit) (includes media disks)
- 8GB Memory (DDR3L), SDRAM, 1600Hz
- 500GB Hard Disk Drive (SATA III 7200rpm);
- NVidia Quadro K2100M (2GB) High Resolution Graphics Card (1680 x 1050), Solidworks Certified
- 15.6" Display Monitor (IPS) with 1920 x 1080 resolution - High Definition (HD) performance
- Built in Wi-Fi capability supporting IEEE 802.11(a, b, g, n, ac)
- 4 USB ports including 2 x USB 3.0 and 2 x USB 2.0
- VGA Video port, Combo Stereo headphone mic/jack; RJ-45 connection
- USB Optical Mouse, Integrated webcam, Bluetooth 4.0
- Integrated 4 in 1 Card Reader (SD Card, MultiMediaCard, SDHC Card, SDXC Card)
- QWERTY keyboard with euro symbol, numeric keypad, spill resistant, touchpad
- Over 6 hours battery life
- High quality Notebook carry case with shoulder strap

Warranty: 3 year Next Business Day Onsite Warranty (provided as standard); an additional 2 year warranty is available as an optional extra

Cost: €1,351.77 (Notebook, Including VAT & delivery). Refer to order form for additional options.

Intel Core i7-4700MQ 4th Quad
Core processor, 2.8GHz
15.6" High Definition (HD)
Display



NVidia Quadro K2100M (2GB)
High Resolution Graphics Card,
Solidworks Certified

Contact PC Peripherals:

Phone: 01-2917900 Email: t4@pcp.ie Web: www.pcp.ie/t4
67a Heather Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18.