

17th May 2007

Following a process of due diligence, the South West Grid for Learning Trust regrets that it is withdrawing its current procurement for the SWGfL Merlin Learning Platform service using the Becta Learning Platform Services Framework. The Trust has taken this decision in view of concern that it may not be appropriate to award a contract for the SWGfL Merlin Learning Platform service under the scope of the Becta Framework.

This decision has been taken unanimously by the Trust Management Board on behalf of the Directors of Children's Services following dialogue with Becta, legal advisors, and much careful consideration. The Board has not taken the decision lightly and apologises for any inconvenience this action may cause.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the effort invested by the bidders through the procurement process to date and thanks them for their enthusiasm and commitment.

The South West Grid for Learning Trust re-affirms its commitment to the SWGfL Merlin project and is totally committed to the delivery of a regional Learning Platform that provides integration and interoperability services that supports school choice in the use of MIS, Learning Environments and other tools. This decision will inevitably impact upon the timeline for the delivery of a regional solution for schools, but the Board feels that withdrawal from the current procurement exercise is in the interest of fairness, transparency and due propriety.

The Trust will re-tender for SWGfL Merlin based upon its long-established vision using the OJEU process within the coming 8 weeks.