



How do you choose the right ICT partner for your main build project?

KEY POINTS



- Gain clarity on how to select the best ICT partner
- Seven-point checklist
 1. Track record
 2. Documentation
 3. Broad approach to ICT
 4. Support at bid stage
 5. Infrastructure design
 6. Installation & delivery
 7. Aftercare
- Contact us to find out how the right ICT partner can add value to your school build project

You, have to design and construct a new educational building that has an ICT infrastructure in place that works and is delivered on time. How do you choose the right ICT partner for this important role?

Designing and delivering an ICT infrastructure for a new build needs people who can tread the fine line between making sure that the ICT infrastructure works on Day 1 yet is able to be adapted to the changing digital world and be as effective years down the line. Choose your ICT partner wisely and the positive impact will last for years.

Here are the SEVEN important things you need to look for in your ICT partner:

1. Proven track record

We'd recommend that you look for proof such as:

- Your potential ICT partner has worked on jobs like this before
- They already have experience of working through the entire process, from tender to post-delivery
- Have an approach to BIM and BSI19650
- They are employing the right type of people, all providing the same attention to detail and level of expertise.
- They have the right suppliers who also have a proven track record.

You can find this proof via:

- Testimonials that endorse their work at every stage of the process
- Having sight of their high-quality tender documents
- Their ability to fully interpret a client's ICT design needs
- Their proficiency in delivering solutions on time and within budget
- Their recognised skill in carrying out first-rate installations.

Ask yourself, is your ICT partner passionate about improving learning outcomes through fantastic environments or are they just interested in technology for technology's sake?

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2. Excellent, documented processes

A construction project is complex and multi-faceted. Your chosen ICT partner needs to easily slot into all the other work that is taking place, deliver on time and to the standards agreed, and be able to mitigate or deal with risks.

Documentation and processes are essential for this.

So, check that your potential ICT partner has:

- Clearly laid out, well-defined processes for design, delivery and installation
- Documentation that recognises how to identify and mitigate all the risks of delivering a construction project on time and snag free.

Furthermore, you want an ICT partner that is committed to supporting you to build buildings that are Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCtO).

3. Broad approach to ICT in education

ICT in Education is a key part of supporting learning and the effective management of schools, teachers and students. It cannot be

looked at in isolation from the outcomes it strives to support.

Your new build's ICT Infrastructure is going to form a core part of the way the school operates and how it affects education; you need to make sure that this broad view is considered.

Therefore, you need to ensure that your chosen ICT partner:

- Is education focussed and understands the importance of education not being disrupted during delivery
- Knows how the innovative use of technology in the classroom can support learning
- Can support and advise schools through the ICT choices they will need to make

4. Support at the Bid stage

Choose an ICT partner who can support the tender and bid writing stage. They need to work alongside design teams as well as clients to ensure the ICT submission fully meets the brief and requirements.



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A successful ICT partner will:

- Understand in detail the technical requirements of the tender
 - Appreciate the recognised value of an integrated design team
 - Provide design input across all work streams to ensure a seamless bid
 - Demonstrate creativity and ingenuity to identify solutions that will win bids.
 - Understand energy intensity and be able to model the small power and server room contributions to NZCiO.
- partnership and collaborative working rather than through change control and more cost
 - Focus on managing and maintaining an excellent supply chain
 - Ensure the availability of their installation teams
 - Be flexible and responsive to modifying their plans to accommodate changes in the construction programme
 - Have excellent project and programme management teams with fully developed and detailed project plans, processes and documentation.

5. Design expertise for ICT infrastructure

Make sure your ICT partner understands the level of integration required between both the design and delivery teams. Truly successful ICT partners are always a step ahead; aware of the risks that incomplete planning and integration can cause, particularly at the installation and delivery stage. This requires a significant amount of detailed planning.

A knowledgeable ICT partner should consider:

- How to incorporate a range of flexible learning spaces
- How to deliver an enterprise class network infrastructure
- How to collectively consider ICT, M&E systems, FF&E and other equipment
- How to manage a complex matrix of supply chains
- How to accommodate the decant of the school's existing end user equipment
- How to support the school's own ICT vision for speed, capacity, resilience and future flexibility

6. Efficient installation and delivery

Your ICT partner needs to be highly experienced at working on construction sites and adaptable to ensure timely delivery. Talk to their past clients to ensure that they have proven they can:

- React to changing requirements and delivery timescales through partnership

7. What happens after installation

Your reputation guarantees you on-going work. Therefore, make sure that your ICT partner can:

- Provide developed robust testing procedures to ensure the solution is fully working at handover
- Have clear processes for training the school's support staff. These need to be comprehensive to ensure that the schools can operate successfully in their building.

Partner with the right ICT supplier that has, experience in UK Education, proven collaborations with other main contractors and an understanding of NZCiO targets and how to achieve them. Take the above seven points into consideration and you will be taking a positive step to delivering well the ICT aspect of the build.

FIND OUT MORE

Get in touch to hear more about how we can help you with your next school construction project.

Visit www.novatia.com call 01962 832 632 or email info@novatia.com