1. Last year £836m was spent through consortia agreements, saving £113m in the process.

2. Since the publication of the Diamond Report, consortia have helped the sector attain over 20% of annual spend through collaborative procurement arrangements.

3. Consortia agreements offer a fast and easy route to market – all are compliant with EU public contracts regulations.

4. Around 80% of all consortia spend goes through shared supply agreements.

5. Over 100 institutions are directly represented on the governing bodies of the regional purchasing consortia.

6. HE consortia also actively collaborate with Government, NHS and other parts of the wider public sector.

7. Consortia share a single electronic system for recording and reporting contract spend activity.

8. Consortia have been proud to work together to procure, market and deliver training for the HE Procurement Academy (HEPA).

9. Key frameworks are regularly benchmarked against others in the public sector to verify their competitiveness.

10. Our consortia offer outstanding value for money, with costs amounting to just 0.3p for every £1 of consortia spend. Savings outstrip total costs by a factor of 40:1.

11. Collaboration between consortia is the norm – almost all agreements for the supply of goods are awarded at the national level.

12. A joint contracting group, involving all UK consortia, meets regularly to implement a national contracting plan, maximising collaboration and minimising duplication.

13. Consortia awarded contracts in 2013 to provide spend analysis capability to the membership.

14. Consortia were instrumental in actively encouraging over 90 English HEIs to undertake Procurement Maturity Assessments.

15. Consortia share a single database (uniBuy, formerly GeM) for advertising contract information to members.

16. Consortia framework agreements support the socio-economic and sustainability values of their members.

17. Within their regions, consortia have helped HEIs to collaborate locally, using consortia agreements for joint contracts, delivering even greater efficiencies.

18. All UK consortia operate to an agreed, unified protocol that governs the way collaborative procurement projects are run and managed.

19. All English consortia have completed Procurement Capability Assessments and scored well, gaining praise for their achievements with limited resources.

20. Our consortia offer outstanding value for money, with costs amounting to just 0.3p for every £1 of consortia spend. Savings outstrip total costs by a factor of 40:1.

The Top 20 Facts about England’s Regional HE Purchasing Consortia