1. What is a VEAT?

A VEAT is a ‘Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency’ notice. Jisc uses a VEAT notice to announce over threshold requirements (above £189,330) which are not going out to competitive tender. In other words, VEATS are used when a contract is intended to be awarded to a single supplier which is deemed uniquely suitable.

The notice must contain the following:

- name and contact details of the contracting authority
- a description of the object of the contract
- a justification of the decision of the contracting authority to award the contract without prior publication of a contract notice
2. Why are VEATs used?

Jisc Procurement uses a VEAT notice in order to abide by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The regulations state that a VEAT notice is to be used in limited circumstances.

A voluntary transparency notice is published by a contracting authority where a contract is to be awarded without prior publication of a contract notice – i.e. on a direct award basis (Article 32 of Directive 2014/24/EU). It is an option provided by the regulations for the purpose of resisting challenge on the grounds of ineffectiveness. The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 provides that ineffectiveness will not apply if the contracting authority considers the proposed contract to be justified and takes the following steps:

- Publishes a VEAT notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) indicating its intention to enter into the contract.
- Then observes a standstill period of at least ten days beginning with the day after the date of publication.

The ten-day standstill period is observed in order to give economic operators, other than the proposed directly awarded supplier, the opportunity to challenge.

Only when this ten-day period has passed, without challenge, is the contract to be signed.

Then, not later than 30 days after the agreement has been signed by both parties, Jisc procurement publish a Contract Award Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). This notice contains the contract scope, value, start and end dates to meet the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 requirement for transparency (Article 50 of Directive 2014/24/EU).

3. Why do Jisc Services Limited use VEATs?

Jisc Services Limited, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jisc. As the National Education and Research Network Provider we negotiate with suppliers at a national level to procure and license affordable hardware and software solutions for the UK and Ireland education and research community.

Jisc has procured a SIEM (Security Incident and Event Management) solution for its members. This solution is unique because we hold the overarching licence for this SIEM solution and sell on parts of the Jisc licence to members. The SIEM solution is provided by Splunk and is provided only by this one single supplier.
The justification written by Jisc Procurement on behalf of Jisc Services Limited explains that the supplies or services can only be provided by a particular economic operator because the procurement is for the acquisition of a technically unique product or service, offered by a single supplier.

4. Resources in scope

Jisc has entered into a 3-year contract with Splunk to purchase a pool of (Managed Service Provider) MSP licenses at a reduced rate in order that the entire sector can benefit from economies of scale. Splunk is a market leader for SIEM. It is one of the most mature products of its type meaning it is well supported, thoroughly documented, and integrates well with other technology sets including a series of products Jisc and its members already use.

5. Benefits of using Jisc Services Limited arrangements

Jisc Services Limited represents the interests of all UK and Ireland higher education institutions, and saves them time and money, by:

- Negotiating the best possible price, terms, and access conditions for licensed digital content as we work at national level
- Following procurement law to acquire content in a compliant manner for use by our members. This means the member is not required, under procurement law, to carry out their own procurement process.
- Supporting the transition to open access through negotiating transitional open access agreements
- Working closely with librarians, and other sector representatives, to identify content that will add value to their collections
- Providing a model licence with legally approved terms, negating the need for Institutions to draw up their own
- Providing a single online portal to manage subscriptions, acquisitions and invoicing
- Offering a dedicated helpdesk to support institutions with subscriptions and purchasing of Jisc-negotiated content
- Carrying out research into innovative resources, licensing models and evaluation tools
- Sharing knowledge about e-resource acquisition and research
- Working with other regional and national procurement groups, such as SHEDL, WHEEL LUPC and SUPC.
6. Members of Jisc

UK and Ireland publicly-funded higher and further education institutions that are members of Jisc are eligible to use the agreements we negotiate for them. Members can also be Academic affiliated or Non-academic affiliated.

Contracting and Licensing

Jisc is the contracting authority and the agreements made between Jisc and the Supplier are negotiated on behalf of Jisc members.

The Jisc Model for purchasing institutions is that Jisc has negotiated the licence with the publisher, on behalf of its members.

Purchasing and licensing model:

Jisc has negotiated pricing terms with the supplier on behalf of our institutions. We license the content from the supplier then sub-license it to institutions. We invoice the institutions, collect fees from them, then pay the supplier.

In this instance the overarching license agreement is between Jisc and SPLUNK, institutions and members will contract with Jisc who will sub-license to them. Jisc have a copy of the Contract Award Notice issued via OJEU which members or eligible institutions can request.