

# Connected Classrooms Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Interactive Classrooms Project

#### INTRODUCTION

**Under the Interactive Classrooms Project all schools will receive an Interactive Classroom over the next four years. It is also possible for schools to purchase this equipment at their discretion.**

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been developed to assist schools, TAFE Institutes and DET Offices in the selection of discretionary items for an Interactive Classroom.

This list of FAQs is by no means complete and will continue to be updated as more questions are logged over time. If you have additional questions which could be added to the list please email these suggestions to [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au) or contact the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager on 1800 654 310

#### BACKGROUND

##### **What is the purpose of this purchasing program?**

The purpose of this discretionary purchasing program is to allow schools, TAFE Institutes and DET Offices to purchase high quality and affordable devices that can be readily integrated to create an interactive classroom.

Discretionary DET purchasers can supplement equipment provided to schools under the Connected Classrooms Program (CCP). For further details on the CCP see <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/ccp/index.htm>

## **Why was there a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for IWB vendors when we already have existing vendors?**

In 2007 the NSW Government went to market to establish a broader list of suppliers for high volume electronic appliances, specifically interactive whiteboards, data projectors and associated software and peripherals. DET has selected specific vendors to supply these products.

This tender process succeeded in reducing the prices of common items significantly. The process also showed that by providing predictable quantities, unbundling complexity and selecting model types the department could put in place further savings and better standards.

The resulting cost savings, commitment to service and longevity of product ensure a greater ability to provide equitable educational opportunities across the state.

## **How was the vendor selection made?**

A number of vendors responded to the RFQ. A DET evaluation panel was established to assess the RFQs and select vendors. Panel members included representatives of stakeholder groups including teachers, primary and secondary principals, ITD, TAFE NSW and Curriculum Support and CLI. Selection was made based on best fit for purpose, technical evaluation, price and performance history.

Vendors were chosen across the four categories of device and assessed on individual merits within those categories.

# BUILDING YOUR INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM

## What is an Interactive Classroom?

An Interactive Classroom is an integrated learning environment. Under the Connected Classrooms Program (CCP), one Interactive Classroom equipment suite will be installed in every NSW public school over a four-year period commencing Term 2, 2008.

The Interactive Classroom equipment suite to be installed in a single classroom includes

- one interactive whiteboard, either stylus-touch or finger-touch surface
- one data projector
- one flat screen video monitor for video conferencing
- audio speakers
- one standard T4L desktop computer with lesson creation software
- one lockable equipment cabinet
- video conferencing camera & microphone.

In this suite there is a choice of interactive whiteboard, either

- A 195cm (77") **stylus-touch** Panasonic board, including stylus pens
- OR
- A 195cm (77") **finger-touch** Smartboard, including stylus pens for operation by stylus

And the following standard equipment:

- Smart audio speakers
- Lenovo standard T4L control computer (with Activstudio 3 and Activprimary 3 loaded)
- Sanyo ultra short throw projector
- Equipment cabinet
- LG 106cm (42") flat panel LCD monitor (for video conferencing) with built-in high definition (HD) tuner
- Two mounting brackets (for ultra short throw projector and for flat panel LCD Monitor)
- Video conferencing codec and front-of- room camera and single ceiling-mounted microphone
- Video conferencing rear camera (back-of- room camera)

- Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Telephone handset (for connection to DET network and Helpdesk)

For Discretionary Purchases, there is a choice of:

- Three interactive whiteboards:
  - A 195cm (77") **stylus-touch** Panasonic board, including stylus pens
  - A 195cm (77") **finger-touch** Smartboard, including stylus pens for operation by stylus
  - A 163cm (64") **finger-touch** Smartboard, including stylus pens for operation by stylus
- Three data projectors:
  - Sanyo ultra short throw projector
  - Epson short throw projector
  - Dell long throw projector
- Two LCD monitors:
  - LG 106cm (42") flat panel wall-mount LCD monitor (for video conferencing) with built-in high definition (HD) tuner
  - Phillips 106cm (42") flat panel swivel wall-mount LCD monitor (for video conferencing)

## **How will I know when my school will have an Interactive Classroom installed as part of the Connected Classrooms Program?**

Schools are scheduled for installation of an interactive classroom equipment suite by agreement with Regional Directors and School Education Directors. Schools will be contacted by the DET ICT Fleet Manager to discuss and confirm exact installation dates. A pre installation site assessment/survey is undertaken by your region's ICT Services unit to assist in determining suitability of the chosen location for the Interactive Classroom and to provide installation information.

## **What if I don't want all the equipment in an Interactive Classroom? Can I order components of the suite? For example, I just want an IWB and projector?**

Yes, you can order components through the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager. Contact details: email [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 1800 654 310.

For a detailed list of equipment see

[https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/t4l/hardwarespecs/interactive\\_classrooms\\_gpl.htm](https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/t4l/hardwarespecs/interactive_classrooms_gpl.htm)

Standard Interactive Classroom equipment suites are available for schools to order. These are the same as those specified for the CCP.

A complete Interactive Classroom equipment suite that replicates the one being provided under the CCP will cost around \$20000. You may wish to purchase some of the components as your needs dictate (eg projector/board/mounting). Please contact the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager at [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 1800 654 310

### **What is the DET installation and why?**

The DET installation is a combination of a stylus-touch board and an ultra short throw projector. The choice of this combination was chosen based on

- robustness and durability
- ability to mount the projector on a flat wall in any classroom
- consideration of OH&S issues
- price.

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A complete Interactive Classroom equipment suite that replicates the one being provided under the CCP will cost around \$20000. You may wish to make further discretionary purchases of the components as your needs dictate (eg projector/board/mounting). Please contact the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager at [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 1800654310.

### **How do I choose an Interactive Classroom equipment suite solution?**

There are six possible combinations of an Interactive Classroom depending on your choice of data projector and IWB. The choice of solution is based on the type of interaction your students are likely to require with the technology, the make-up of your classroom and the budget available.

You can choose to buy an Interactive Classroom equipment suite as packaged under the CCP or buy individual components to suit your needs.

## IWB and data projector equipment selection

### 1) Select the optimal student input method

	Stylus Touch	Finger Touch
<b>Interaction</b>	Students use a pen/stylus to activate the board	Students can touch the board with their hands or use a pen/stylus to activate it
<b>Registration accuracy</b>	Fine point	Finger width
<b>Robustness</b>	Hard touch surface	Soft touch surface
<b>Price</b>	\$1415 (UB-T780)	\$1930 (SB-680)

Robustness, Registration accuracy	OH&S, Stability and Security			
		Ultra Short Throw (recommended)	Short Throw	Long Throw
	Stylus Touch Board	1	3	5
Finger Touch Board	2	4	6	

- Priority of solutions listed left to right above, lower numbers preferred

### 2) Select the ideal projection type

	Ultra Short Throw 8cms (recommended)	Short Throw 1-2 metres	Long Throw 1-9 metres
<b>OH&amp;S</b>	Can be operated from 8cms from wall, little to no eye contact with lens/light	Operates in front of teacher	Typically operates in front of teacher
<b>Installation complexity</b>	Easy to install on a standard wall directly above screen	Installs on roof or table mount, may require additional inspection or roof review.	Installs on roof or table mount, may require additional inspection or roof review.
<b>Security</b>	Secure, locked into wall mount	Secure when mounted appropriately	Secure when mounted appropriately
<b>price</b>	\$2415	\$1955	\$1035

## What are the dimensions and specifications of the IWBs?

Choices are:

- A 195cm (77") stylus-touch Panasonic board, including stylus pens
- A 195cm (77") finger-touch Smartboard, including stylus pens for operation by stylus
- A 163cm (64") finger-touch Smartboard, including stylus pens for operation by stylus

## What are the differences between the projectors?

The projector models are designed to be placed for optimal performance for the full size of the IWB.

The ultra short throw projector is mounted 8cms from a wall for example and projects directly onto a 203 cm (80") screen.

Medium and long throw projectors will work as a normal classroom projector from the front, middle or rear of the room.

The long throw projector can operate from a minimum distance of one metre from a screen or IWB size of 81 cm (32").

## COMMON TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS: HARDWARE

### What is in an Interactive Classrooms equipment suite?

An Interactive Classroom is an integrated learning environment. The Interactive Classroom equipment suite to be installed in a single classroom includes:

- one interactive whiteboard, either stylus-touch or finger-touch surface
- one data projector
- one flat screen video monitor for video conferencing
- audio speakers
- one standard T4L desktop computer with lesson creation software
- one lockable equipment cabinet
- video conferencing camera & microphone.

Under the CCP, one Interactive Classroom equipment suite will be installed in every NSW public school over a four year period commencing Term 2, 2008.

The Interactive Classroom contains a suite of equipment that is installed in a single room and includes:

A choice of Interactive Whiteboard, either

- A 195cm (77") **stylus-touch** Panasonic board, including stylus pens

OR

- A 195cm (77") **finger-touch** Smart board, including stylus pens for operation by stylus

And the following standard equipment:

- Smart audio speakers
- Lenovo standard Technology for Learning (T4L) control computer (with Activstudio 3 and Activeprimary 3 software loaded)
- Sanyo ultra short throw projector
- Equipment cabinet
- LG 106cm (42") flat panel wall-mount LCD monitor (for video conferencing) with built-in HD tuner
- Two mounting brackets (for ultra short throw projector and for flat panel LCD monitor)
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For discretionary purchases, there is a choice of:

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For a detailed list of equipment see

[https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/t4l/hardwarespecs/interactive\\_classrooms\\_gpl.htm](https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/t4l/hardwarespecs/interactive_classrooms_gpl.htm)

### **Are Smartboards and Panaboards compatible?**

These IWBs are compatible with the projector, software and components used by the Interactive Classroom.

Both devices have different methods of touch interaction – Smartboards have finger and stylus touch and Panaboards have stylus touch. However both connect with all the remaining components and have no known incompatibilities.

### **Can we write on the interactive whiteboard with normal markers?**

It is recommended that the interactive whiteboard is not written on with normal markers.

### **Is it more expensive to have a larger IWB installed?**

No, installation cost is the same for each IWB. However the actual cost of purchasing a smaller board is less.

### **Can we use our own projector instead of buying a new one?**

If your projector can project onto and work with the software and hardware provided, then you may continue to use your current projector technology.

### **Do the IWBs come with speakers?**

Yes, speakers are provided.

### **Can we use the long throw projector as a short throw projector?**

The long throw projector can operate from a minimum distance of 1 metre from a screen or IWB size of 81 cm (32”).

### **Why do we need the monitors?**

The monitors are for video conferencing. Schools should note that the LG flat panel monitor has a built-in high definition (HD) tuner which can be used to receive HD television broadcasts.

### **When will video conferencing equipment be available?**

Video conferencing technology vendors and prices will be announced soon.

## **COMMON TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS: SOFTWARE**

### **Can I use the Promethean Activstudio 3 and Activprimary 3 software on our already installed Smartboard, Kookaburra or Panasonic board?**

Yes. However in the first instance you will require an Active Hub to be provided with the software. Please contact the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager to discuss your requirements.

Contact details: email [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 1800 654 310.

### **What is the cost of the Promethean Activstudio 3 and Activprimary 3 software and can I buy it stand alone?**

DET has licensed the software for all users across DET. There is no additional charge for schools, TAFE Institutes or DET Offices to use this software. You do not need to purchase the software separately.

### **Why will schools, TAFE Institutes and DET Offices use Promethean Activstudio 3 and Activprimary 3 software?**

This software has been chosen as the DET enterprise software after a thorough Request for Quotation (RFQ) process and will be a component of the DET standard operating environment (SOE). It can be used on all DET devices, for example IWBs and computers, by teachers at work or at home.

## COMMON PURCHASING QUESTIONS

### **I can access a better price from our local shop. Can I buy locally?’**

Devices purchased outside of the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager are not supported.

If you can provide evidence of an alternative quotation for a device that meets DET specifications please provide this information in hard copy to the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager. Please phone 1800 654 310 or email [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au)

### **Can I buy outside of the standard products?**

Any purchases made outside of the project and its standards are not supported by DET Information Technology Directorate (ITD).

### **Can I get a refund or discount on IWBs I have previously purchased as these were at a higher price?**

No

### **Can I get a discount for volume purchases of hardware?**

DET has negotiated the best possible price based on a very high volume discount. Further discounts on hardware are not available.

However for orders greater than 20 units a single installation charge will be quoted by DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager. Please phone 1800 654 310 or email [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au)

### **Can I arrange a site visit and review?**

Yes, a site visit/review stock-keeping unit (SKU) will be available soon for the project through the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager. This will provide the necessary consultation and site details for you to build your interactive classroom. Details will be provided as soon as possible. Please phone 1800 654 310 or email [ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ICTfleetorders@det.nsw.edu.au)

### **What are the delivery timeframes for discretionary purchases?**

Delivery timeframes for interactive classroom installations will be advised on receipt of an order. Service level agreements (SLA's) are dependant on installer workload and individual conditions at the installation site.

### **Does an Interactive Classroom come as a package or do I need to purchase the components separately?**

You can do both. A complete Interactive Classroom equipment suite has a cost of around \$20000. Some schools and TAFE Institutes may wish to undertake a staged implementation of IWB, projector and video conferencing equipment in a classroom, as budget and capability allow.

## COMMON INSTALLATION QUESTIONS

### Can we install the hardware ourselves?

The majority of hardware requires installation by the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager in order to conform to DET standards.

### Will the people who are installing both the flat screen video monitor and IWB bolt them to the wall as well?

Yes

### How will I know when my school, TAFE Institute or DET Office will have equipment installed as a result of a discretionary purchase?

You will be advised by the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager after you have made and confirmed your order. Installation date will depend on installer workload and individual conditions at the installation site.

### When the installation is being done, will additional electrical power points be installed eg for the ceiling?

Electrical power points are installed if you purchase an Interactive Classroom equipment suite. Five power points are required and will be installed if they are not already installed in the designated room.

If you purchase individual items, eg an IWB or a video conferencing unit, you will need to order installation of any required power points. Please discuss with the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager at the time of placing an order.

### Does the installation include ducting which will hide the cables?

Yes, ducting will be installed where it is possible to do so.

### How long will my classroom be unavailable during the installation?

Installation of an Interactive Classroom equipment suite will take two days, so you will need to plan for this.

When you purchase individual components, eg IWB or video conferencing, please discuss installation details at the time of placing your order with the DET ICT Equipment Fleet Manager.

## COMMON MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

### **Do I really need to buy a flat screen monitor?**

A flat screen monitor is included in the Interactive Classroom equipment suite. If you wish to set up additional video conferencing capability you will ideally require a flat screen monitor in order to make best use of video conferencing.

Some schools may wish to purchase an LG flat screen monitor with built-in high definition tuner to receive HD television broadcasts.

### **Can you please advise on peripherals eg slates, personal response units (voting devices)?**

Peripheral devices are under review by the department and will be made available soon.

### **Can I use a demountable building to house an Interactive Classroom?**

The CCP recommends that wherever possible equipment is installed in a non-demountable building.

However where this is not possible due to individual school, TAFE Institute or DET Office circumstances, please discuss options with your regional ICT unit to determine the best location.

### **What lighting do I need to be aware of in an Interactive Classroom?**

A wall that is affected by very bright sunlight is not advisable as a surface for mounting the IWB or LCD flat panel monitor. Some method of control of sunlight may be necessary, such as blinds or curtains. Consideration should also be given to skylight sources of light that may be difficult, expensive or impossible to cover.

Normal room lighting is acceptable for operation of a video conferencing session. Bright external light behind participants may cause the participants to be backlit and therefore not clearly visible during the video conference

### **How do I choose the right location for an Interactive Classroom?**

Your Regional ICT Services Unit will work with your school to assess the suitability of the room the school has chosen and of the data services available within that room and building. You should consult with the Regional ICT Services Unit to provide this assistance.

### **Can I order a full Interactive Classroom ahead of the project installation?**

Your school may wish to order a full Interactive Classroom suite ahead of the installation scheduled as part of the project. However the installation may not be possible as sufficient wide area network bandwidth may not be available to your school. It is essential that the NGEN Project has upgraded the bandwidth to your school prior to the installation of a full IC suite.

You can however phase in your installation by purchasing parts of the full kit in the interim. This may commence with the data cabinet, PC and IWB. Video Conference equipment can be added later.

It is essential that you consult with the Regional ICT Services Unit to ensure the suitability of the selected room in your school prior to ordering any equipment.

## COMMON USER SUPPORT QUESTIONS

### What support is available for the Activstudio 3 and Activprimary 3 software?

Support will be made available in the future through DET.

For early access to training and shared learning spaces please visit

<http://www.prometheanlearning.com/uk/course/> and [www.prometheanplanet.com](http://www.prometheanplanet.com)