

Tactus helps DfE battle digital exclusion by supplying 165k laptops to underprivileged school children



In April 2020 the DfE launched its 'Get help with technology' initiative, the largest ever provision of computer hardware the education market has ever seen. The project aims to ensure pupils from lower income families do not miss out on learning opportunities while schools are closed due to the pandemic. Headed by Microsoft and its partners, including XMA and Westcoast, the goal is to provide disadvantaged students with more than 1.3 million laptops, tablets, and internet access, along with support for digital platforms.

Tactus was delighted to have been selected as a key supplier to help the DfE achieve this goal, and to date has supplied **165,000** of all of laptops currently distributed.

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During school closures, children from underprivileged families are the ones who will suffer the greatest detrimental impact to their education. Ensuring every child has access to technology is critically important, and it's vital that we do everything possible to enable this. That's why we're absolutely thrilled to be supporting the DfE, by providing disadvantaged children with devices that give them the best education experience and help ensure continuity of education.

Scott Brenchley, CEO Tactus.

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Locking out the competition on product, price, and unrivalled delivery agility.

Through our flagship brand GEO we offer a range of laptops designed to power productivity. Our Geo Education range is built around the essential features required for schools and home learning, and comes complete with Windows 10 Pro Education and optimised for Microsoft Teams. Features such as reliable AC WiFi technology, a 2MP built-in webcam, and dual microphones helps drive engagement and interaction during student teacher video calls. While slim lightweight casing, a compact footprint, and precision touchpad makes light work of small workspaces, allowing users to work easily and in comfort.

Tactus were selected to partner with the DfE because of our ability to offer our Geo Education laptops at an affordable price. We were able to really listen to what was needed for successful remote learning and quickly adapted the devices to user requirements by ramping up the device spec. This gave us the opportunity to demonstrate our design flexibility, resulting in upgraded WiFi, improved camera and microphone, and a secured chassis to improve durability and student safety.

Superior supply chain management places Tactus as UK No2 commercial device manufacturer

Tactus were also chosen to partner with the DfE because of our world class project management and speed of delivery. We have the ability to guarantee supply in the most restricted market ever seen. This is made possible through our unrivalled relationships with the China Technology Ecosystem (CTE) and in particular with Intel, for the supply of laptop processors. In fact we were the only partner able to deliver the volumes needed, in the required timeframes.

“Working with Tactus has been a fantastic experience for XMA and our customers. We partnered with Tactus as part of the national government program, Get Help With Technology, to deliver devices to under privileged children. The close working partnership we created resulted in an honest relationship operated with integrity that allowed our business to meet the needs of our customers. Tactus supply great quality hardware and is backed up with a completely accessible and friendly leadership team that helps us grow our business with confidence.”

Rich Kettle, Alliances Director – End User Compute, XMA



Our exceptional management of the supply chain enabled us to get closer to the manufacturing process than any other OEM. We did this through daily video calls to manage the production process, and by reacting swiftly to any issues or changes in the brief of which there were many.

“Tactus, Microsoft & Westcoast have helped to transform the lives of thousands of Britain’s schoolchildren. Together, with some outstanding planning we ensured the UK government shipped more PCs to schools than any other European country in 2020. One day, this achievement will be seen as part of the every day necessity of being at school, but this year was like no other! Tactus’s prowess combined with Westcoast’s flexibility and the UK reseller channel’s agility have delivered something that was unimaginable at the start of the year. It can only be done with partnership.”

Alex Tatham, Managing Director, Westcoast

The future for Tactus: our mission to bridge the digital divide

As a Microsoft device partner we are continually transforming. The DfE project has established Tactus as a significant player in the education and broader public sector space.

With over 1.8 million children still without access to a laptop, we won’t stop working to bridge the digital divide by providing devices that enable all children to continue learning, no matter their situation.

