

What is a Framework Agreement?

In the world of procurement, a framework agreement is a form of procurement used to create an “umbrella” agreement with supplier(s).

Framework agreements make it easier for a contracting authority to make longer-term arrangements with more than one supplier, and in some cases with suppliers covering a range of industries. Within public procurement it is common for a buyer to require a range of services; a good example of a framework agreement would be a local authority looking to procure ongoing construction services, and splitting a framework into lots such as roofing, scaffolding, general building etc., to build up an agreement with specialised companies without continually going out to the market. In theory, this should also benefit the further supply chains, over a guaranteed period.

Small Works Framework explained

The Small Works Framework will be an arrangement between NIBSC and qualified suppliers which establishes the terms under which contracts that may be awarded during the framework’s lifecycle. A framework covers the provision of goods, works or services, or in some cases a combination.

The Small Works Framework is intended to run for seven years, winning a place on the framework means that a supplier can build a long-term relationship with NIBSC.

Framework agreement not a guarantee of work

Keep in mind that a framework offers no guarantee of work to any supplier winning a place on it, as it is an agreement to be put in place by NIBSC (the buying organisation) stipulating the conditions that would apply to any order placed during the duration of the framework agreement. Every time a buyer wants to procure a specific item or service under this framework agreement, a separate contract is established using a simplified ‘call off’ for which only suppliers on the framework may compete.

Why should suppliers bid for places this framework?

For suppliers that are already working with the public sector and would like to expand the opportunities available to them, winning a place on the NIBSC Small Works Framework agreement can help. This framework also presents an opportunity for suppliers without public sector experience to be listed on a framework as one of our preferred contractors for single or multiple specialised works or project.

Although winning a place on a framework agreement is no guarantee of work, it can significantly enhance a supplier’s reputation and exposure, and can bring smaller suppliers the opportunity to work with high-profile Agency like NIBSC.