

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

What exactly is a framework agreement?

The simplest way to explain a framework agreement is to think of it as an 'umbrella' agreement with a number of suppliers, established by Crown Commercial Service (CCS) and others, for use by the public sector. Frameworks are a pre-competed route to market providing a vehicle to centralise procurement spend. They offer shared procurement expertise and resource and a shared risk and contract management.

A large majority of organisations are buying through these agreements. But why? A framework agreement offers reduced administrative burden as agreements significantly reduce the time and cost compared to running a full procurement procedure each time (whilst also helping to ensure legal compliance). Capable suppliers are identified through competitive procurement, so at mini-competition there may be fewer tenders to evaluate for each requirement, particularly if the framework is divided into distinct lots. There are many benefits to agreements but security of supply must be near to the top of the list.

ON MULTI-SUPPLIER AGREEMENTS, IF ONE SUPPLIER ON A FRAMEWORK RUNS INTO DIFFICULTY THERE WOULD STILL BE OTHER SUPPLIERS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF DELIVERING THE REQUIREMENT.

Each framework agreement comes with Call-of Contract (terms and Conditions of the framework). ANS have been awarded to the following Frameworks:

Crown Commercial Service Technology Products (RM1054)

- Lot 1: Hardware

Crown Commercial Service Technology Services (RM1058)

- Lot 1: Help Desk/Service Desk
- Lot 2: Desktop Support
- Lot 5: Infrastructure and Platform, Maintenance and Support

Crown Commercial Service G-Cloud VI (RM1557VI)

- Lot 1: Infrastructure as a Service
- Lot 3: Software as a Service
- Lot 4: Specialist Cloud Services

Crown Commercial Service G-Cloud VII (RM1557VII)

- Lot 1: Infrastructure As A Service (IaaS)
- Lot 3: Software As A Service (SaaS)
- Lot 4: Specialist Cloud Services (SCS)

Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC)

- Lot 1: Unified Communications Solutions
- Lot 2: IP Telephony, Voice over IP Services and Call Tariff Packages
- Lot 4: Local Area Network (LAN) and Associated Services



Crown
Commercial
Service



Crown Commercial Service Technology Products (RM1054)

- Lot 1: Hardware

Technology Products was developed to meet the commodity hardware and software requirements of the public sector. Designed to meet the aims of central government and wider public sector ICT strategies, the requirements of all customers were captured and incorporated.

Lot 1: Technology Hardware - for the provision of vendor neutral hardware. Hardware solutions can also be procured. The scope covers end user computing and infrastructure. When procuring a solution, software can be provided under this lot provided the hardware forms the majority of the requirement.

This framework runs from the 17th November 2014 to the 16th November 2016

Direct award is available for low volume/low value procurements via the technology products catalogue.

The technology catalogue has content from suppliers on Technology Products (RM1054) and provides access to a wide range of technology products including hardware, packaged software and associated commoditised services.

The catalogue content forms part of the Government eMarketplace. Public sector buyers can register and log on [here](#)

Further Competition (E-Sourcing Tool)

Lot 1 will also allow the route of tendering via further competition. The Crown Commercial Service eSourcing tool is available (free of charge) to enable public sector organisations to run further competitions, and is pre-populated with templates and supplier contact details. To register please [click here](#).

What happens once awarded?

For orders following award as a result of a further competition you must complete the award by sending (including electronically) a signed order form which forms part of the relevant call-off contract document available from the framework web page linked below.

On all documentation you will need to include the agreement reference of RM1054. For catalogue orders you must also refer to the standard RM1054 Terms & Conditions and confirm that catalogue pricing has been used (especially if using a manual or P2P system to generate the purchase order). Completion of a call-off contract is not necessary for catalogue orders.

Customer Guidance

More information, guidance notes and documentation can be accessed [here](#).

Crown Commercial Service Technology Services (RM1058)

- Lot 1: Help Desk/Service Desk

The single point of contact between a service provider and users within an organisation. A typical service desk manages incidents and service requests, and also handles communication with the users.

Crown Commercial Service Technology Services (RM1058)

- Lot 2: Desktop Support

The technical services offered by a support organisation to a user(s) experiencing problems with their computers. Support may be on either hardware or software running on the affected computing device. Support may include but is not limited to installations, moves, adds, changes and disposition, and local remote services.

Crown Commercial Service Technology Services (RM1058)

- Lot 5: Infrastructure and Platform, Maintenance and Support

Manage all library infrastructure hardware and software operations, including server and storage systems. Support production applications, whether open source, developed in-house, or third party.

Break-fix - Focused on servers and storage.

Platform support and maintenance is the management of hardware and software architecture in order to allow applications to operate.

Platforms can include one or several of the following hardware and/or software components: - hardware architecture; operating systems; programming languages and frameworks; runtime libraries; application servers; databases; other middle-ware products.

The Technology Services agreement is the next iteration of its predecessor RM717 – IT Managed Services.

The agreement has been redesigned to comply with GDS requirements to facilitate disaggregating large and complex contracts. A lot structure has been adopted to accommodate this and to actively encourage SME's to participate in the agreement.

This agreement has been designed to deliver local and regional IT services such as desktop; enterprise application managed services; computer rooms and local networks services.

This framework runs from the 27th May 2015 to 27th November 2016

How to use

We would recommend that you undertake the following steps:

- Review this guidance documentation and the Call-off Terms and Conditions;
- Determine your requirement and construct your output based specification for the services you require
- Determine the most appropriate Lots for your procurement and conduct that procurement in line with the parameters outlined in the following sections.

Mini-Competition (E-Sourcing Suite)

- A mini competition should be the default method for awarding call-off contracts under this Agreement. You must provide the suppliers with a minimum set of information that can be used to help propose solutions and price against your requirements effectively.

What happens once awarded?

Once a decision to award has been made, it is advised that for further competitions above the OJEU threshold, you observe a ten calendar day mandatory standstill period (often called the 'Alcatel' period). If doing so, you should issue an intention to award letter, to all suppliers that submitted a tender.

Once the ten day standstill period is complete, you must instruct the selected supplier(s). This should be done by completing and sending a letter of appointment, a completed Order Form and a completed copy of the model call-off terms and conditions.

On all documentation you will need to include the agreement reference of RM1058.

Customer Guidance

More information, guidance notes and documentation can be accessed [here](#).

The G-Cloud framework allows you to choose and purchase cloud services covering infrastructure, platform, software and specialist cloud services. Some benefits are as follows: Scalability and elastic services, Rapid deployment, Much reduced costs and total cost of ownership, No stranded investments, Access to innovation and Agility.

The lots ANS have successfully been awarded to are:

Crown Commercial Service G-Cloud VI (RM1557VI)

- Lot 1: Infrastructure as a Service
- Lot 3: Software as a Service
- Lot 4: Specialist Cloud Services

This framework runs from the 2nd February 2015 to the 2nd February 2016

Crown Commercial Service G-Cloud VII (RM1557VII)

- Lot 1: Infrastructure As A Service (IaaS)
- Lot 3: Software As A Service (SaaS)
- Lot 4: Specialist Cloud Services (SCS)

The framework runs from 23rd November 2015 to the 22nd November 2016

Customer Guidance

For Guidance, please [click here](#)

For more information on the Digital Marketplace please [click here](#)

Customer Guidance

For Guidance, please [click here](#)

For more information on the Digital Marketplace please [click here](#)

ANS are a supplier on the ICT: Telecoms Services Framework for CPC, the home of purchasing arrangements for the Academies, Schools and Free Schools sectors.

ANS are on the following lots:

Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC)

- Lot 1: Unified Communications Solutions
- Lot 2: IP Telephony, Voice over IP Services and Call Tariff Packages
- Lot 4: Local Area Network (LAN) and Associated Services

This framework runs from the 26th April 2013 to the 10th January 2017

If you would like to send RFQ directly to ANS, please email: tenders@ansgroup.co.uk

We welcome the opportunity on discussions around the solutions ANS can provide via each framework. To arrange an appointment please contact: tenders@ansgroup.co.uk

Alternatively, call 0161 227 1000 and ask to speak to our Bid Manager.