

SME - Unlocking Public Procurement Opportunities Agenda

DATE: Thursday 20 March 2025

LOCATION: The Merchant Hotel, 16 Skipper St, Belfast BT1 2DZ

Rita Duffy Suite	Jonathan Aitken Room	Brian Ballard Room
Main Conference Room & Meetings Tables	Breakout space	Table top stands

08.30	Registration & refreshments	Room & Speakers
09.30	Welcome, Housekeeping, Introduction to day	Paul Hansen, CCS Sharon Smyth, Dept for Finance
09.40	SME's - Guidelines on how to get on Frameworks & Supply the Public Sector	Lucy McCormack, CCS
10.20	The Procurement Act 2023 - What it means for the SME supplier, the benefits and how to maximise them	Lucy McCormack, CCS
10.40	One 2 One Meetings & Refreshment Break	ALL ROOMS
11.20	NI Procurement Policy - the changes, policy updates, challenges & opportunities	Sharon Smyth, Dept for Finance, NI
12.00	Key Framework Comparison - what frameworks there are, what they should be used for, where suppliers get best engagement and how to make effective decisions on routes to market.	Jammar Prince, CCS
12.40	AI - What are UKG looking for with AI for future procurement? Following the publication of the AI Playbook, Anthony looks at the strategic direction the UK are taking with AI and how SME's play a key part in the future development of this critical technology	Anthony Coyne, DBT AI Team, Northern Ireland
13.10	One 2 One Meetings & Lunch	All Rooms

14.10	Social Value - An increasingly critical component to Public Sector Procurement. Delivering social value doesn't have to be an obstacle to becoming a Public Sector supplier. Understanding the opportunities and the networks available to support and enable the delivery of social value will enable SME's a seat at the table alongside their larger competitors.	Sean Hannah, Director of Services, Now Group
14.40	Supplier Partnership Panel – opportunities for SME's as a sub-contractor	Moderator - Neal Hutcheson, Software NI Panellists: Dave Vincent, NI Public Sector Lead - AWS, Paul Murnaghan, BT, Nigel Cunningham, Microsoft, +TBC
15.30	Closing comments	Laura Unwin, CCS Donna Williams, CPD
15.45	Networking drinks and 121 meetings	All rooms
17.00	Event Closes	ALL