A new way of engaging consultancy, professional services and interim support

In September 2012 the North East Procurement Organisation set up **NEPRO** – a nationally available neutral vendor solution for public sector organisations to engage consultants, professional services and interim support.

**NEPRO** manages and engages a range of suppliers across key categories that meet the needs of public sector and third sector organisations. This neutral vendor service is already being used by a number of local authorities across the UK and is available for use by any public sector body.

**NEPRO** enables public sector organisations to access a range of professional services providers with ease and speed with the overall aim of driving value for money.

**Benefits to you**

- Efficient and OJEU compliant process for bringing in external support.
- You only pay for suppliers on delivery and performance.
- The process stands up to scrutiny. From development of the business case, approvals and performance of the chosen supplier – each step is auditable.
- There is no administrative input needed from you – **NEPRO** manages everything on your behalf.
- You have the option to do a direct call-off or mini-competition.
- **NEPRO** provide dedicated support to enable you to get the service that you need quickly.
- Enables an increased use of SMEs.

**Buying from a broad range of services**

**NEPRO** users can buy from a broad range of category areas with accredited suppliers:

- Finance, audit and accounting
- Asset management and delivery
- Facilities management
- Construction, design and engineering
- Regeneration
- Environment, sustainability and waste
- Community and housing
- Education and learning
- Information, communication technology (ICT)
- Highways and transport
- Marketing, media and public relations
- Social care (adults and children)
- Health and wellbeing
- Leisure, culture and heritage
- Health professionals
- Safeguarding
- Environmental health and consumer protection
- Translation and interpretation services
- Planning and development control
- Organisational advice and support
- Training
How NEPRO can meet your needs

The end-to-end process for meeting your requirement is simple, with four steps to go through before your supplier is ready to start their assignment.

Selecting your supplier

When you have selected the supplier, NEPRO will process all of the necessary documentation and provide a supplier briefing pack so that the supplier fully understands the role and comes prepared to carry out the required assignment for you. The briefing pack will cover:

- Overview of your organisation
- Directions to their place of assignment
- Dress and professional code
- Health and safety requirements

Finding the right solution for you

At the outset a member of the NEPRO team will contact you to discuss any clarifications from the requirement and agree the selection process. For example:

If your requirement is for a specialist consultancy, you may wish to invite the shortlisted suppliers to meet with you and present their approach and credentials. NEPRO will arrange this with you.

If your requirement is for an interim, you may wish to organise an interview panel. If required, NEPRO will assist you in putting together the panel and arrange the interview.

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What you can be assured of before a supplier begins an assignment

NEPRO will fully pre-screen all suppliers before their engagement commences. This will include:

- Two written references (one of which will be the most recent client).
- Proof of right to work documentation, a copy of the company certificate of incorporation and professional indemnity insurance.
- Contractual signed paperwork in place with the supplier which back-to-backs with the call-off agreement between your organisation and NEPRO.

What are the options for using the service?

There are three ways of using NEPRO for engaging and managing your consultancy, professional services and specialist interim needs dependent upon your particular organisational requirements. More details are provided on the NEPRO website.

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