



NFCC National Procurement Hub – Fleet Update

NFCC Emergency Response Vehicles Framework (DS339-20)

The NFCC Emergency Response Vehicle Framework Management Team has recently concluded annual management meetings with each supplier. The purpose of these meetings is to enable suppliers to feedback on how the framework is working for them and for the management team to review the performance of each of the suppliers on the framework.

The following key themes were identified through the meetings:

1. Suppliers are continuing to experience supply chain issues and are working to overcome any delays, unavailable parts etc.

Most Suppliers have indicated that pre-procurement (contacting all relevant suppliers prior to initiating the procurement process) has improved. The NFCC Procurement Hub have produced guidance on pre-market engagement, and this can be located via this link: [Engage With Suppliers - Our Methods | NFCC Programme \(nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk\)](https://nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk).

Conducting pre-market engagement will ensure that FRSs are aware of likely lead-times and enable them to plan accordingly. FRSs should take account of what the framework suppliers are feeding back when planning their procurement processes.

2. Suppliers are continuing to see pricing volatility (particularly in relation to Chassis Cabs)

Recognising the current volatile market conditions, Fire and Rescue Services may want to use 'Price Clause Option 1' contained within the 'Call-Off Contract' in the framework documents, and this can be located via this link: [ERV Framework - NFCC Commercial Transformation Programme \(nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk\)](https://nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk). Please review Schedule 5 Order Form, Appendix 1 for price clauses

Price Clause Option 1 will allow flexibility in terms of pricing but requires the Contractor (Supplier) to provide evidence of any increased price (e.g., quotation from Chassis Cab Manufacturer to Body Builder with initial price at time of tender and revised quotation issued to Body Builder prior to build). Tendering for fixed costs may result in Suppliers increasing their pricing (which may not necessarily reflect what happens in the market) or may result in them not submitting a tender as they are not willing to accept that risk.

3. Some Suppliers are reporting relatively short tendering timescales

The NFCC ERV Framework Agreement advises that Contracting Authorities should give a minimum of 6 working weeks for the tender response period. A number of suppliers highlighted that they have received several tenders with less tender response weeks than advised. In addition, FRSs should take account of holiday periods and may want to increase the time to take account of this (particularly during Christmas and Summer Holidays).

4. FRSs are duplicating questions from the framework in Further Competitions

FRSs should carefully review question duplication. It is advised that FRSs should not be repeating questions asked at framework level during the further competition stage. Questions can be related to criteria used at framework level but should be in relation to their particular requirements. The list of the question asked within the framework Invitation to Tender can be located via this link: [ITT Section 4 Schedule 1 Tog Assessment Questions](#)

Contracting Authorities should consider carefully whether the questions asked are proportionate and reasonable to the requirements.

5. Social Value requirements and questions need to be proportionate and achievable for both FRSs and Suppliers.

The Framework Management Team has produced guidance on building Social Value into procurement processes under the framework, and this can be located within the 'User Guide' section at the bottom of the Fleet Framework pages within the Procurement Hub website - [ERV Framework - NFCC Commercial Transformation Programme \(nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk\)](#)

Contracting Authorities should ensure that Social Value questions are proportionate and achievable for Suppliers to meet e.g., it could be disproportionate to expect the supplier to employ apprentices in your area. You may need to consider other ways of obtaining the social value element as part of the tender.

6. A review of the Statement of Requirements including format of the mandatory requirements and further instructions for FRSs and Suppliers.

The Framework Management Team will be reviewing this (working with NFCC TOG). Any changes made to the Further Competition Templates or the Framework Agreement will be included within the Change Log and communicated to all FRSs and Suppliers.

7. Action Log

From the meetings, an action log has been created, please see below the remaining actions. The Framework Management Team will be working through the actions and providing the relevant updates to both FRSs and Suppliers.

1. Updates from each Supplier on their Carbon Reduction and Waste Management Plans
2. Review the GVW on all Technical Statement of Requirements
3. Add an additional tab onto the Pricing Schedule for Optional Pricing
4. Review the framework guide and provide additional guidance on how to use the templates including the mandatory (grey) boxes.

Thank you to you all for your continued support and collaborative approach to investment in our Sector's fleet.

On behalf of the NFCC ERV Framework Management Team: Luke Malton – NFCC Fleet Commercial Lead, Amy Harraway – NFCC ERV Framework Lead, Ian Tucker – DSFRS Fleet Manager and NFCC TOG Representative and Tim Mansbridge – Hampshire Fleet Manager and NFCC TOG Representative