



## SME Case Study: National Forensic Framework – Next Generation

### Provision of a framework to provide Police Forces with Forensic Services

**Requirement:**

Forensic service providers to be available for direct contracts with Police Forces

**Approach:**

Planning began prior to the end of the previous framework. The team held workshops with multiple stakeholders to define Specifications and Lot structure. It was very important that the market would be sustainable, resilient and would meet Force requirements. Strategies to support this objectives included breaking down the Lots so that they were evaluated independently, and adopting a multiple supplier strategy per Lot. This made access to the framework more accessible to SMEs.

Since the award of the Framework the Forensic Team held workshops with SMEs / niche providers to discuss their concerns and understand the barriers faced. The team continues to provide SMEs / niche providers with information on the tools and processes in place that could help them, such as the Contracts Finder, the Prompt Payment Policy and the Government Ideas Launchpad, They also provide open and detailed feedback on their bid responses providing them the opportunity to focus improvements for future mini competitions.

**Interest:**

In total, 19 suppliers submitted bids for a place on the framework.

**Time:**

The procurement process from publish of OJEU to award was 8 months.

**Outcome:**

13 suppliers achieved a place on the framework spread across 13 Lots.



**What we achieved:**

A framework with multiple suppliers per Lot with 6 suppliers being SMEs allowing for element of competition.

Ongoing good supplier relationships including regular contact with SMEs to allow them access to our support and guidance to help them win work.

A sustainable and secure supply chain for Police Forces.