



Academies Construction Framework – Out to Tender

The contract notice for the new Academies construction framework has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union. The existing framework is not set to expire until late 2010, but its capital ceiling of £2m is expected to be reached in 2009 necessitating the early re-procurement.

The new framework will be established for four years and will deliver capital investment of £3.5bn - £4.5bn. The contracting authorities will be able to call on the framework to deliver:

“Academy Schools, schools procured in advance of core BSF funding being made available and non-LEP BSF programmes. The Framework may also deliver wider educational and related community facilities which may include, but are not necessarily limited to, 0-19 education facilities.”

The framework is split in two with each part covering different geographical areas: Sector 1 – North West, North East Yorkshire and The Humber, East Midlands and West Midlands; Sector 2 – East of England, South East, South West and London. Contractors can bid to cover one or both sectors.

PfS has elected to use a Restricted Procurement Procedure and envisages that up to 24 contractors will be appointed to the framework, with between nine and 12 contractors covering each geographical sector.

PfS is named in the OJEU as the central purchasing body on behalf of Local Authorities, the DCSF, PCTs, the LSC and maintained schools and academies.

It will still be possible for Academies to be procured through either the LEP or the framework, and the choice of route will depend on the individual circumstances of the Authority. It is interesting to note that the proposed framework seems to be able to deliver a range of educational and community facilities, not just academy projects. This flexible approach should result in the establishment of a versatile framework which can be used for a range of projects by the contracting authorities, where procurement through a LEP is not available or appropriate.

The current framework is comprised of the following contractors: Balfour Beatty, Carillion, Kier, Laing O'Rourke, Skanska and Willmott Dixon. Once the new framework is established, it will operate side by side with the existing framework for a time.

The framework is predicted to be operational from December 2009. Further details are available on the PfS website:

<http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/programme/acpro.jsp>

TPP Law Limited
March 2009

For further information, please contact James Hudson on
t 020 7620 0888
e james@tpplaw.co.uk.