

Free access for SMEs to public sector contracts

The government has announced every UK SME will now have free online access to thousands of lower-value public sector contracts on a nationwide basis. This can be done via the Government's website www.supply2.gov.uk, where procurement opportunities worth up to £100,000 - will make it suitable for small/medium sized businesses. This means firms will have better access to public sector contracts, helping them to grow.

The NFB is now a link partner with the supply2.gov.uk promoting its use to members and beyond. The announcement moves towards the key recommendation in the Glover Report, stating by the end of 2010 all public sector contract opportunities should be accessible through a single, free on-line web portal. SME's can access the national search service by registering for free at: www.supply2.gov.uk

"Small and medium sized businesses are a crucial part of the UK economy and in these challenging times it is essential that we support them in as many ways as possible. By introducing a free to use national search service we are helping to create a level playing field on which SMEs can compete with their larger counterparts. This will realise benefits for SMEs, the economy as a whole, and help drive further innovation in public services."

Ian Pearson, Economic Secretary to the Treasury