



NEWS RELEASE

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BUSINESS LOBBY GROUP ENDORSES SUPPLY2.GOV.UK

Leading business organisation, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), has stated that local authorities should be mandated to use the Government-owned lower-value contracts portal Supply2.gov.uk in order to aid better buying.

The FSB, which represents more than 200,000 members, endorsed the service as a part of a recent call to all levels of government, on behalf of small businesses, to remember that smarter buying will also save money for the taxpayer.

The organisation claims that applying measures such as the use of Supply2.gov.uk to advertise contracts will help small firms compete and achieve better competition for contracts.

Clive Davenport, FSB Trade and Industry Chairman, said: "The FSB has been calling for a web portal for public sector contracts, including low-value contracts, for some time.

"Supply2.gov.uk should produce healthy competition, better value for money and a fairer deal for businesses that do not have the time and resources to cope with expensive and complicated tendering processes. We therefore welcome the introduction of this initiative and we encourage local authorities and small businesses to get fully behind it."

Owned by the Department of Trade and Industry's Small Business Service, Supply2.gov.uk allows UK public sector organisations to publicise their lower-value contracts free of charge and, for the first time, businesses can view such contracts in a single place, reducing the time taken to source opportunities.

Designed to ensure that businesses can win a larger share of lower-value public sector contracts - typically those under £100,000 in value - Supply2.gov.uk, provided by leading procurement solutions company BiP Solutions Ltd, has already become a valuable business tool for thousands of buyers and suppliers. Over 26,000 contracts have been advertised on the portal, while the number of registered suppliers is now in excess of 35,000.

Gordon McRury, brand manager for Supply2.gov.uk, says that the portal can assist smaller businesses in finding contract opportunities within government: "Traditionally, SMEs have found it difficult to access opportunities to supply to both central and local government.

"Supply2.gov.uk consolidates access to lower-value contracts from across the whole of the UK public sector. By registering with Supply2.gov.uk as a means of potentially generating business, smaller firms can raise their profile within the government procurement community and collate valuable business intelligence."

The FSB joins the European Commission (EC) in acknowledging the benefit of Supply2.gov.uk to buyers and suppliers alike. In its Interpretive Communication of July 2006, the EC uniquely recognised Supply2.gov.uk as a best practice means of advertising lower-value contracts.