



Frameworks vs dynamic markets

Cheat sheet

This learning aid is designed to highlight the different characteristics of frameworks, open frameworks and dynamic markets under the Procurement Act 2023 to assist you in determining which would be most suitable.

Framework, open framework or dynamic market?

	Framework	Open framework	Dynamic market
Public contract?	Yes	Yes	No
Maximum duration	4 years (unless defence and security, utilities or justified and set out in the tender notice for the framework)	Maximum 8 year term (with minimum reopening periods) - final framework in the scheme to expire 8 years from the day the first framework was awarded	No maximum term
Number of suppliers	No minimum or maximum	Minimum of two suppliers - to take advantage of maximum 8 year term	No minimum or maximum

	Framework	Open framework	Dynamic market
Can the number of suppliers be limited	Yes	Yes	No
Ability to add additional suppliers throughout the term	No Suppliers are fixed from the point of award to termination (up to 4 years)	Yes Suppliers may be refreshed during the term of the open framework	Yes Suppliers can apply to join at any time
Market conditions	Stagnant / stable	Developing / limited new entrants	Emerging / new entrants
Resource to establish and maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any competitive tendering procedure can be used to establish May choose to reassess exclusions during the life of the framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any competitive tendering procedure can be used to establish Competitive process must be repeated within required timescales to appoint new suppliers May choose to reassess exclusions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess applications for membership Applications can be submitted at any time and must be assessed within a reasonable time period May choose to reassess exclusions and conditions of membership during the life of the dynamic market
Awarding a contract (calling off)	Award with or without competition from fixed pool of suppliers	Award with or without competition from fixed pool of suppliers within a framework in the scheme	Award with competition - must consider potential new members for every call off

	Framework	Open framework	Dynamic market
Flexibility to adapt during lifetime	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopen and re-award framework as needed (within minimum parameters) • Can add or remove suppliers in accordance with the processes set in the framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited • Open for new suppliers to join at any time • Suppliers can only be removed based on exclusion grounds or failure to continue to meet conditions of membership
Best for...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed need • Small supply base • Supplier and product certainty (quality, lead time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some flexibility required due to market development • Value through repeated competition • Manageable supply base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large supply base with a mix of big suppliers and SMEs • Agile response to innovation • Social value, can be less resource intensive for SMEs and small local suppliers to participate

You should consider which type of framework is most appropriate for your particular requirement and the current market. Pre-market engagement can also be used to help determine which type of framework would be the most suitable solution.