

CENTRAL TELECOM AWARDED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BY OGCbuying.solutions

Communications specialists Central Telecom have signed a contractual agreement with OGCbuying.solutions, the trading arm of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), an office of HM Treasury.

Central Telecom will now be able to offer its communications portfolio to the wider public sector. This ranges from both analogue and digital telephony and messaging services and the provision of PABX, PSTN, VOIP and Centrex services, to leased lines, managed voice solutions, audio conferencing, cabling and other products.

Following a successful EU compliant tendering process Central has been awarded the agreement which allows them to provide voice data solutions to public sector customers across government under the Specialist Solutions, Catalist Framework. The tendering process Central undertook ensured that products and services were of high quality, offered price competitiveness, were fit for purpose and compliant with statutory requirements.

The framework agreement allows customers throughout the public sector to place orders with Central Telecom under the standard terms and conditions of the agreement.

The agreement follows rigorous tendering and evaluation processes to check Central's products and services for quality, price competitiveness, fitness for purpose and compliance with statutory requirements.

The agreement will streamline purchasing, simplify the tendering process and make it easier for public sector customers to select telecoms products and services. Public Sector organisations can now deal directly with Central Telecom to select the hardware and related services they need to implement new telecommunication solutions.

Commenting on the agreement, Andrew McDougall, Central Telecom's Managing Director said:

"This is a significant appointment for us and demonstrates our proven track record in the public sector along with our reputation for delivering leading edge solutions on time and on budget."

"In 1999 we set up a dedicated NHS Solutions Team after signing a similar agreement with the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, which authorised us to supply and support health markets throughout the UK with voice, video and data products and services.

"We will now be establishing a dedicated public sector team, which will be a single point of contact for public sector organisations," added Andrew.

Central Telecom was founded in 1985 and is widely acknowledged as one of the UK's leading integrated communications specialists. The company, which employs 220 staff nationwide has more than 4,000 managed accounts and more than 500,000 end users throughout the UK, ranging from SME's to blue chip and public sector organisations.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

OGCbuying.solutions is the trading arm of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), which is itself an office of HM Treasury. OGC was launched on 1 April 2000 as a result of a review of civil procurement in Central Government. Its aim is to achieve substantial value for money improvements in the Government's procurement budget and to oversee and implement the Government's wider Efficiency Review across the entire public sector. OGCbuying.solutions, launched in April 2001, provides public sector procurement professionals with a route to the products and services they need to maximise procurement efficiency and value for money. Its contracts and framework agreements offer substantial savings through significant buying power, economies of scale and strategic partnerships. Once again, these savings are counted towards the Efficiency Review target. Rigorous tendering and evaluation processes ensure that products and services are checked for quality, price competitiveness, fitness for purpose and compliance with statutory requirements. These products and services are available through OGCbuying.solutions **Catalist** framework agreements and **Managed Services**.

The **Catalist** brand is designed to unify the framework agreements under one identifiable and recognisable brand name. Catalist incorporates a series of framework agreements which have been developed to offer our customers a broad range of goods and services aligned to their particular needs.

Managed Services are predominantly more sophisticated, requiring expertise and additional support from OGCbuying.solutions.

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CENTRAL

Central Telecom is widely recognised as one of Europe's leading integrated communications specialists. They design, develop and implement leading edge communications solutions across a diversity of market sectors and have more than 4,000 managed accounts and over 750,000 end users throughout the UK, ranging from SME's to blue chip and public sector organisations.

Working in partnership with clients Central provides innovative solutions that encompass infrastructure, application delivery and services. These also extend beyond supply and services to incorporate assisting customers in defining their communication strategies; and designing, customising, building and implementing effective solutions that address key business and technology issues, delivering real business benefits. Their multi-vendor reseller capability allows them to offer a high level of integration across a broad portfolio of products which has in turn enabled them to lead the field in consolidation and convergence solutions. The emergence of IP has allowed them to implement global communications solutions. For more information please view: Central Web Site www.centralpublicsector.co.uk

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