Why Framework Agreements should be used

The University has an obligation to obtain best value for money in purchasing goods and services and is legally required to comply with European tendering procedures for this purpose. This legislation has recently become much more stringent, meaning that the University has to be far more careful in how it purchases goods and services. Framework Agreements are set up as part of the tendering process allowing users across the University to purchase common goods such as stationery and PCs under agreed terms and conditions put in place by Procurement Division.

The benefits of using Framework Agreements are:-

- The requirements of all departments of the University who use the commodity are consolidated. It makes sense that £100K spent with one supplier should attract better prices than £100K spent with 20 suppliers, and the supplier will be much more keen to keep our business!
- Terms and Conditions of trading have been agreed (this is very important should things go wrong during the term of the contract)
- Suppliers have been checked to ensure they have adequate insurances in place; meet the required standards for Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities and Environmental practices; and are financially sound
- Regular review meetings are held with suppliers
- Service Level Agreements may be in place for some commodities which can include agreed delivery/lead times, payment terms, response times etc.
- If things go wrong it is easier to remedy them
- We may gain additional benefits from suppliers that we wouldn’t get with one-off purchases

Best Value for Money – is not necessarily lowest price. Framework agreements take into account the quality and consistency of the goods/services required. However, the consolidation of our demand means that we should get keen prices and good quality.