

NEWS RELEASE

OGCbuying.solutions awards FibreSpan Telecom Networks Framework Agreement

FibreSpan, a national network carrier that specialises in dedicated dark fibre and ultra-high bandwidth network services, has been awarded a new Telecom Network Framework Agreement with OGCbuying.solutions. The framework agreement allows public sector customers to procure FibreSpan's services under standard terms and conditions, eliminating the need to follow otherwise mandatory EU tender requirements.

FibreSpan was selected for the Framework Agreement following a thorough competitive procurement process, fully compliant with EU Directives. This process ensured that products and services were assessed for quality, price competitiveness, fitness for purpose and compliance with statutory requirements.

Identified as a specialist supplier in the Dark Fibre category, FibreSpan demonstrated an ability to reliably deliver high-bandwidth services to organisations wishing to invest in fibre optic connectivity between multiple-sites. The three year minimum Framework Agreement went live on 8 January 2008, and is estimated to be worth in excess of £150 million per year.

Winning a place on the framework highlights FibreSpan's commitment to the public sector. *"We are absolutely delighted at this significant achievement and its validation of our track record with the public sector to date. Being awarded the Framework Agreement via a scrupulous competitive tender situation pays major testament to the expertise of our team and to the high quality services we offer,"* comments Robert Bicket, FibreSpan's Chief Executive Officer.

Awarded by OGCbuying.solutions, an Executive Agency of the Office of Government Commerce in HM Treasury, the Framework provides customers across the entire public sector with an easy route to the products and services they need. It enables procurement professionals to reduce procurement time, maximise procurement efficiency and achieve value for money.

FibreSpan has amassed considerable experience and an in-depth knowledge of providing high bandwidth fibre solutions to the public sector – including central government, local government, health service, government agencies and higher education. Organisations are attracted to its fixed price unlimited bandwidth model, with moderate capital costs and low recurrent costs, making it affordable to build high performance private fibre networks. Customers include London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Wirral National Health Service, National Research Councils, University of Liverpool and Stevenage Borough Council.

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About FibreSpan - fibrespan.co.uk

FibreSpan is a fibre solutions company with a national telecommunications licence. It designs, installs, operates and leases private dark fibre circuits, working in partnership with health and education, local authorities and other multi-site organisations. Established in 2001, it is an independent UK national statutory utility, licensed by the DTI and regulated by Ofcom.

It is FibreSpan's goal to make fibre optic connectivity a viable solution for organisations throughout the UK. In order to achieve this, the company has invested in developing patent-pending microduct technology that is swiftly changing the face of fibre optic deployment – allowing access to bespoke dark fibre connectivity at an affordable and competitive rate.

FibreSpan offer an end-to-end service that includes consultation, network planning, rapid deployment and comprehensive support. Its dark fibre networks offer unlimited bandwidth at a fixed cost for the term of the contract - a genuinely future proof solution. This puts FibreSpan in a unique position to enable clients to have complete control of future bandwidth demand.

About OGCBuying.solutions

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 Catalyst framework agreements and Managed Services.