

## **SME Working Group**

Following the reform of the public procurement landscape and the establishment of the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) in 2013, the OGP re-established the SME Advisory Group which had previously been established and chaired by the National Procurement Service (NPS). This was in line with the Programme for Government to continue to assist small and medium enterprises to maximise their opportunities in winning public sector contracts. The new group held its first meeting in January 2014.

The Group is chaired by the Director of Procurement Policy at the Office of Government Procurement. The Group meets quarterly or more frequently if required.

The Group will, inter alia:

- Target and look at options to address issues affecting SME participation in public procurement.
- Provide a clear forum to understand what steps SMEs are taking to participate and be successful in public procurement.
- To alleviate fears, concerns, real or perceived and encourage and facilitate, where possible, SMEs tendering for public sector procurement opportunities.
- To contain and reduce all administrative costs to ensure the continued provision of much needed public sector tender opportunities.
- Increase SME participation by encouraging SMEs to explore forming relationships with other SMEs or larger enterprises.

### **Membership of the SME Working Group**

The SME Working Group will include representatives from:

The Office of Government Procurement (OGP)  
Chambers Ireland  
Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC)  
Irish Small and Medium Enterprise Association (ISME)  
Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)  
Small Firms Association (SFA)  
Construction Industry Confederation (CIF)  
Enterprise Ireland (EI)  
InterTrade Ireland (ITI)  
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI)