

PRESS RELEASE

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Be launches new contract to underpin collaboration

A new form of construction contract which underpins collaborative working has been launched today (Fri 12th September) by Collaborating for the Built Environment – the leading industry reforming body known as Be.

The Be Collaborative Contract is the result of three years of work and extensive consultation across the construction industry and legal profession. It is now being tipped as a new industry standard and has already won full backing from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) which has called it 'the best of its kind'.

Furthermore, the Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) has approached Be with a view to adopting the Collaborative Contract as its recommended form of partnering contract and discussions are also taking place with the Local Government Association (LGA) to produce a version for use by LGA members.

Key features of the Be Collaborative Contract are:

- **Underpins collaboration** – it is an overriding principle of the Be Contract that parties act collaboratively with each other and with all other project participants.
- **Flexibility** – a set of collaborative terms which remains unchanged gives consultants, contractors and sub-contractors the unique chance to be engaged on the same project with the same basic terms.

- **Risk Management** – the Be Contract requires the client and project team jointly to identify the risks relating to the project and allocate them flexibly in terms of both financial and time consequences.
- **Clarity** – the Contract is specifically designed to be understood and used effectively across the whole construction industry and not just by lawyers.

Speaking at the launch event, the Contract's joint author, Martin Howe of Bevan Ashford Solicitors, said:

“In recent years, central government policy and Treasury guidance has been that partnering offers substantial potential benefits over traditionally procured construction. However, until now, there has not been a simple and user-friendly form of contract to support this. The Be Collaborative Contract offers a simple and easily understood collaborative framework to which all members of a project team can subscribe.”

For more information on the Collaborative Contract, please visit www.beonline.co.uk or contact Malcolm Dodds at Be on 0870 922 0034.

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