

The home of collaborative contracting



# NEC Digital

## 5 Ways NEC Digital Supports Collaborative Contracting in the UK



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## The challenge:

Whilst 82% of UK construction professionals support collaborative contracts, only 8% use them on all projects. The biggest barrier? 43% cite training as an obstacle, and paper-based processes remain insufficient for today's complex, multi-stakeholder projects.

## The solution:

NEC Digital - an online drafting platform that makes collaborative contracting faster, simpler and more accessible.



## 1. Intelligent Clause Compatibility Checking

Prevent disputes before they start

**The problem with traditional approaches:** Manual cross-referencing to ensure clause compatibility is time-consuming and prone to human error. Incompatible clauses create ambiguity that surfaces only when problems arise during delivery.

**How NEC Digital solves this:** Real-time compatibility checking automatically identifies and prevents incompatible clause combinations as you draft. Every contract created is structurally sound and internally consistent.

**The collaborative benefit:** Contractual ambiguity drives adversarial behaviour. When terms are clear from the outset, all parties can trust the framework and focus on joint problem-solving rather than defensive positioning.

## 2. Real-Time Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Unite all parties on a single platform

**The problem with traditional approaches:** Linear drafting processes create delays, version control chaos and missed opportunities for early alignment. Multiple versions circulate with no clear record of who agreed to what..

**How NEC Digital solves this:** All stakeholders work together simultaneously on one unified platform with multi-access points for team members, suppliers and contractors. Robust permission controls maintain document integrity whilst enabling broad participation.

**The collaborative benefit:** Rather than waiting for documents to pass between parties, all stakeholders provide input when it's most valuable. During tender preparation, technical advisors, commercial teams and legal counsel can contribute simultaneously, ensuring all perspectives inform the contract from the outset.

**Democratising access:** The platform works for businesses at any stage of their digitalisation journey - no specific infrastructure required. A contractor with basic internet can participate equally with sophisticated clients.

### 3. Contextual Guidance at Point of Need

Address the training barrier through embedded learning

#### **The problem with traditional approaches:**

Teams hesitate to adopt collaborative contracts because they feel they lack expertise but can't develop expertise without practical experience - a self-reinforcing cycle that blocks adoption

**How NEC Digital solves this:** Interactive contextual guidance provides expert support at the exact moment you need it. The platform explains payment mechanisms when selecting main options, clarifies secondary clause implications, and guides Contract Data completion - all without leaving the drafting environment.

**The collaborative benefit:** Users can begin working with NEC contracts productively without extensive prior training. This "just-in-time" learning creates confidence - when contract professionals feel confident in the framework, they're more likely to engage constructively, be transparent about challenges, and focus on collaborative problem-solving.

**For UK organisations:** This significantly reduces the time and cost of building internal capability, particularly valuable for local authorities and public sector bodies with limited training budgets.

### 4. Side-by-Side Clause Navigator

Create transparency and shared understanding

#### **The problem with traditional approaches:**

Understanding how different contract options interact requires cross-referencing multiple documents and sections. This complexity creates information asymmetry; experienced parties understand clause implications whilst others struggle to see the complete picture.

**How NEC Digital solves this:** The clause navigator displays contract options alongside their relevant clauses in an intuitive, visual format. As you consider selections, you immediately see the detailed contract language that would result, making the relationship between different elements visible.

**The collaborative benefit:** This transparency creates a level playing field. A contractor encountering NEC for the first time can navigate the structure as easily as an experienced client. When all parties share common understanding, collaboration becomes natural with less scope for misunderstanding or later disputes.

**During tendering:** The navigator provides bidders with complete visibility of all contractor-selected clauses and exact parameters. Contractors see precisely what they're bidding on and can make informed decisions about risk pricing.

### 5. Secure Tender Management

Ensure high-quality submissions from all parties

**The problem with traditional approaches:** Bidders receive complex contract documents but lack the interactive guidance that helped clients draft them. This asymmetry leads to poor-quality submissions, misunderstandings and downstream disputes.

**How NEC Digital solves this:** When you generate Contract Data 1, bidders access a secure environment through a simple link. They receive the same interactive contextual guidance and clause navigator that supported your drafting, creating a genuinely level playing field.

**The collaborative benefit:** Complete visibility through the Contract Data 2 bid flow ensures both parties know exactly what's being offered and accepted - no hidden selections or ambiguous interpretations. You receive confirmation that bidders have used the digital tools, providing confidence that submissions meet NEC's high standards.

**Quality assurance:** The platform's intelligent compatibility checking ensures contractor submissions are internally consistent and structurally sound, reducing the risk of non-compliant bids or fundamental flaws.

### The Results

Collaborative contracts deliver proven benefits:

**78%**  
report improved costs

**81 %**  
experience higher efficiency

**82 %**  
see greater innovation

NEC Digital removes the barriers preventing UK organisations from realising these benefits, creating the transparency, confidence and shared understanding that enable genuine collaboration throughout the project lifecycle.

**Ready to transform your contracting approach?**  
Find out more about NEC Digital and arrange a demonstration:  
[www.neccontract.com/digital](http://www.neccontract.com/digital)

**necccontract.com**  
**info@necccontract.com**

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