

SNAPSHOT

WHY ARE NEC® CONTRACTS DIFFERENT?

1.1

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Solomons Europe.

Since 1998

This series of snapshots provide an expert overview of the critical concepts inherent within the NEC[®] suite of contracts. These aim to harness the power of mutual trust and cooperation while at the same time stimulate good management – all presented in clear and simple language.

A Chartered Quantity Surveying Practice.

NEC® contracts have been drafted to give focus to the aim of reducing disputes and to foster more collaborative relationships between the parties. The drafting party objectives were to provide...

- **Clarity – a clear, logically structured contract that users can understand**
- **Simplicity – avoiding legal jargon, using short sentences and ensuring less text in clauses**
- **Flexibility – adaptable for use on a variety of projects and applications**
- **Act as a stimulus to good (project) management via**
 - Use of present tense and active voice
 - A clear set of processes as opposed to simply setting out rights and obligations
 - Taking a different approach to traditional contracts – ‘who’ and ‘what’; NEC introduces ‘how’

Project behaviours and culture are also key to NEC philosophy in that the contracts are drafted specifically to:

- **Embody partnering and collaboration**
- **Deliberately move away from traditional adversarial practices**



Procuring under NEC requires thought, planning and team effort up front to actively take steps from the outset to avoid disruptive and costly disputes during or at the end of the project.

It is labelled as a project management toolkit for a reason – it cannot be left in a drawer and should act as a project user manual.

For further expert advice and support, please contact Ian Hedley,
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