**ADDENDUM 2**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**MIDDLE-MILE FIBER OPTIC NETWORK/WIDE AREA NETWORK**

**FOR**

**TAYLOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**OCTOBER 19, 2020**

**RFP NO. BC-2020-1**

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED**

Do you anticipate extending the bid due date?

**Response: No**

What additional details are you willing to provide, if any, beyond what is stated in bid documents concerning how you will identify the winning bid?

**Response: Scoring is described on Page 12 of the RFP document**

Was this bid posted to the nationwide free bid notification website at [www.mygovwatch.com/free](http://www.mygovwatch.com/free)?

**Response: No**

Other than your own website, where was this bid posted?

**Response: The RFP was posted to the State of Wisconsin VendorNet procurement site,** [**https://vendornet.wi.gov/**](https://vendornet.wi.gov/)

The RFP states the County prefers newly built fiber. This is a requirement correct? And if so, is it also a requirement for the county to be on private fiber?

**Response: Utilization of existing available fiber resources is permissible in order to meet the goals and requirements of the RFP; utilization of existing fiber resources should be noted separately on maps and in network design responses. It is anticipated that most, if not all, of the middle mile fiber network routes will require new fiber construction to achieve the fiber counts required. In regard to the second question, yes, it is a requirement for the county to be on private dedicated fiber strands, which may or may not be part of a larger fiber cable proposed in the vendor’s response to the RFP. For example, a vendor may propose dedicating “x” number of buffer tubes for the County’s use or may run a separate fiber optic cable along the middle-mile route(s) dedicated for the County’s use.**

We have experienced some contractors offering an initial price and then adding significant change orders during construction. How is the county planning to account for this? Must all upfront costs and monthly recurring costs be final?

**Response: It is the responsibility of the contracted vendor to handle cost changes, so the County is expecting final upfront costs and monthly recurring costs in the responses received, subject to any changes during the contract negotiation process. Vendor may want to include a cost contingency line item amount in their response, as an option.**

The RFP states that the county wants two separate pairs lit at the majority of sites. Is the county wanting a total of 4 fibers lit at these sites? Or did they mean they wanted two fibers lit at these locations? We can provide either solution, we just wanted the county to be aware there will be large equipment differences between lighting a pair or two pairs of fiber at all of these sites.

**Response: For pricing purposes, the County is asking (Page 10, 4.c) for two (2) lit pairs at a majority of the sites and four (4) lit pairs at the County Courthouse and Medford City Hall.**

Does the county specifically want surveys from current customers? Or can the vendor provide references and then specific details on each reference's project?

**Response: Surveys are preferred; some form of written customer feedback/correspondence will satisfy the Customer Satisfaction requested in 2.b on Page 9 of the RFP document.**

Are vendors required to provide audited financial statements? Being a private company provides advantages. However, if our competitors could see our financials during a Freedom of Information Act request (FOIA) we could lose some of our advantages. Will the county accept details on how each vendor is backed financially instead?

**Response: Vendors may provide their financial backing information in lieu of what we requested. Financial information may be marked Proprietary or Confidential, per the Proprietary Information section on Page 6 of the RFP.**

Section 4(a). Unless otherwise specified, all listed locations in Attachment A will have a 12-fiber lateral (using duct/conduit) built into the building, terminated on a fiber termination/patch panel at an internal location not more than 100 cable feet from the point of entry. Costs for internal cable distances of more than 100 cable feet from the point of entry will be paid for by the facility. At least thirty (30) feet of separation from existing telecommunication providers’ points of entry and lateral entrance routes is required.

* Are these 12 fibers daisy chained from site to site (which requires 24 fibers on the lateral)?

**Response: Laterals will terminate at a splice point (handhole or aerial splice case) where they meet the core route. Splicing will be done to meet the connectivity needs of each particular site. Some may be daisy chained, if that makes sense, others will be home-run back to a central site. It is not anticipated that all 12 (or 24 lateral fibers for the County Courthouse and Medford City Hall) will be used upon completion of the construction phase of the project.**

Section 4(c). Vendor will include the optics (xFPs, for example) cost to light two (2) fiber pairs at each specified location (four (4) at the Taylor County Courthouse and Medford City Hall), plus a spare set per specified location, in their pricing. Assume 1 Gbps bandwidth for pricing purposes. Detail any cost differences to increase to 10 Gbps and 100Gbps. Specify additional one-time/recurring costs, if any, for optics above and beyond the initial optics required above.

* Does the Vendor only supply the optics and not the underlying hardware (CE) equipment?  If the County is supplying the underlying hardware, has the hardware vendor been determined?

**Response: The Vendor will provide the optics; the County is responsible for the underlying hardware. The County currently uses Meraki firewalls and Cisco switches, so please base your pricing on that equipment.**

Section 4(d). Vendor shall install cable splice handholes/vaults (for underground fiber segments) or aerial fiber splice cases (for aerial fiber segments) every 500 feet or less within incorporated area boundaries and every 750 feet or less everywhere else.

* In Rural areas or in the unincorporated areas, the typical distance for these handhole/vaults is 2,000’-2,500’. Should access be required between these locations, it is possible to go back and insert a hand hole in the middle of span and pull slack to it from both sides. Or use vacant micro-duct and pull back to splice hand hole. Is this an acceptable option to reduce costs?

**Response: For this and any other deviations from the RFP requirements, please provide a price for the required specification and your alternative recommended specification, with a +/- cost variation and explanation for the deviation from the requirement.**

Section 11. Please describe in detail how Vendor will monitor the network for physical and transmission service issues, impairments, and outages. How will this information be shared with the County?

* Is monitoring requested for Lit Services only or for both Lit Services and Dark Fiber?

**Response: Monitoring Lit Services is required; monitoring Dark Fiber is optional. It is expected that a Dark Fiber customer will monitor their own fibers and the performance of the services riding on them.**

Section 17 (a). Network(s) design:

Is there a desired design? For example:

* Hub-spoke to centralized location(s)? If yes, what are the hub sites?
* Protected core Ring design?

**Response: This section asks for information regarding roles and responsibilities of various parties; it does not ask for nor specify a network topography. We will address the question here. Per Page 1 of the document:**

**THE COUNTY SEEKS INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS AND WELCOMES VARIOUS BUSINESS MODELS AND APPROACHES TO CONSIDER, IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIFIC REQUEST MADE IN THIS DOCUMENT.**

**We expect that vendors have different best practice approaches to designing, constructing, and operating a network; we do not want to limit the options or flexibility in these regards. The County expects that it will be the beneficiary of the design, construction, and operational best practices used by the Vendor, if any, that is awarded this project.**

Section 17(b). Network(s) construction

* Does Taylor County issue both state and county road permits?

**Response: The State of Wisconsin DOT issues permits along state highways. For assistance, you may contact:**

**Jeorgia Dahl**

**Transportation Technician Advanced 2**

**Office: (715) 836-2724**

**E-mail:****jeorgia.dahl@dot.wi.gov**

**For permits along county highways, you may contact:**

**Benjamin Stanfley, EIT**

**Taylor County Highway Commissioner**

**208 N  8th  Street**

**Medford, WI 54451**

**Phone: (715) 785-8326**

**Cell: (608) 732-7585**

**E-mail:** ben.stanfley@co.taylor.wi.us

* Does Taylor County allow use of UtiliCores? If yes, are there any special restoration requirements?

**Response: This section asks for information regarding roles and responsibilities of various parties; it does not ask for nor specify network construction information. We will address the questions here.** **Explain how/where/why UtiliCores will be used in lieu of or in addition to a network specification requirement in this document, along with any price deviation associated with or without them.**

* Aerial fiber option – any local electric company poles available for use?

**Response: The County is served by multiple electric utilities; Vendors should contact them to determine availability, routes, readiness, costs, etc… for use in this project.**

* Soil composition – is there any known rock in the area that would prevent normal plowing/boring? Are there Taylor County resources available to help us understand the potential rock in the area?

**Response: We refer you to this public site for soil survey information:**

**NRCS Web Soil Survey:**  [**https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm**](https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm)

**The County has provided a contact for assistance:**

**Brent Tessmer, CCA**

**County Conservationist**

**Taylor County Land Conservation Department**

**p:****715-748-1469**

**m:****715-351-9205**

**e:****brent.tessmer@co.taylor.wi.us**

**a:  925 Donald St., Rm 104, Medford, WI 54451**

Section 17(c). Network(s) operations and management

* Is Network maintenance and monitoring referenced in Section (3) funded by the $9.5M funding over 20 years or does it come from a separate annual budget?

**Response: Operating costs, such as Network maintenance and monitoring may not be funded by the bond issuance, therefore they are separate. Operating costs will be budgeted annually as part of the County’s annual budget. It is anticipated that current network service cost savings, in addition to any revenue share provided by the contracted Vendor, will help offset the annual operating costs.**

Section 18. Vendor will make this network available for broadband providers at competitive market rates for dark fiber/lit services. The County anticipates that Vendor may want to also provide Ethernet and/or Internet services on the network. Please provide, as a separate cost item, a schedule of Internet services Vendor offers to provide to locations connected to this network. A required minimum performance capacity of 25Mbps/3Mbps per end-customer connection should be supported by the middle-mile network; desired minimum performance capacity of 100Mbps/100Mbps per end-customer connection.

* Please clarify what is being requested. Is this requesting the performance capability range of the network AND pricing for these services?

**Response: Yes, we are asking for pricing for services meeting/exceeding the required/desired performance capability in this section. (Pricing may be marked as Proprietary or Confidential).**

* If pricing is being requested, will the requested pricing for Internet services come from an annual budget separate from the $9.5m bond issue?

**Response: Yes**

ATTACHMENT B: FIBER CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

**Bid Specifications**

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All Hand Holes shall be DOT approved, 45,000 lb. load rated CDR or comparable enclosures.

* As many of the Handholes will be placed in the “grass area” or near/at rural right-of-way and not in heavy vehicle traffic lanes, will the County consider other options which carry a lower load rating for those applications to reduce costs where applicable? (ie: 22,500lb Polymer concrete).

**Response: For this and any other deviations from the RFP requirements, please provide a price for the required specification and your alternative recommended specification, with a +/- cost variation and explanation for the deviation from the requirement.**

All road and driveway bores shall be at a depth of 36” and will have a 2” inner duct placed within.

* + Can multi-cell micro-duct be used as a substitute? (ie:1.25” innerduct)?

**Response: For this and any other deviations from the RFP requirements, please provide a price for the required specification and your alternative recommended specification, with a +/- cost variation and explanation for the deviation from the requirement.**

Warning tape shall be placed 12” above the buried cable.

* + This would be done if plowed, not bored. Is that acceptable?

**Response: Yes**

Question on Contracting Procedure.

What is envisioned as the contracting procedure upon award? There seems to be conflicting information in the RFP where it refers to “contract negotiations” but also refers to the RFP itself as “this Contract,” and it’s not clear if Taylor County would want all of a Vendors proposed contract provisions included at this stage or if they only want the documents requested and any requested modifications to the RFP language.

**Response: Vendors may opt to include a boilerplate agreement to serve as a reference for consideration during the contract negotiations. It would also be acceptable to provide a list of requested modifications to the RFP language; it is not the intent of the County that this document serve as “the contract” on its own; it is realized there are other contractual terms that will be negotiated with the Vendor, if any, chosen by the County to move forward in the process.**

Splicing

Who will perform splicing of County owned fibers after the initial Project is completed? If the Vendor completes the splicing at the direction of County, will Vendor be able to provide a Cost Fee for managing this for the County?

**Response: The County requires that the Vendor will handle ongoing operating, management, monitoring, and maintenance activities associated with the entire network, including the County’s fibers. Vendor should include a list of potential subsequent costs to the County for fiber splicing and other services done at the direction of the County.**