



Date of Issuance: 1/24/2022

Solicitation No. 0900000523

Requisition No. 0900015991

Amendment No. 1

Hour and date specified for receipt of offers is changed: No Yes, to: 1/31/2022 3 PM CST

Pursuant to OAC 260:115-7-30(d), this document shall serve as official notice of amendment to the solicitation identified above. Such notice is being provided to all suppliers to which the original solicitation was sent.

Suppliers submitting bids or quotations shall acknowledge receipt of this solicitation amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation as follows:

Sign and return a copy of this amendment with the solicitation response being submitted; or,

If the supplier has already submitted a response, this acknowledgement must be signed and returned prior to the solicitation deadline. All amendment acknowledgements submitted separately shall have the solicitation number and bid opening date in the subject line of the email.

ISSUED FROM:

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RETURN TO: OMESCPeBID@omes.ok.gov

Description of Amendment:

a. This is to incorporate the following:

The closing date for this RFP has been extended to 3pm CST on January 31, 2022

Below are the answers to questions received. No further questions shall be accepted. On many of them the State is unable to answer. In these instances, the State does not have the information or know. It is up the expert vendor(s) to make any assumptions or estimates based on their expertise.

1. The bid document references a Certificate of Insurance and Worker’s Compensation form. Can you please direct us where we could download these forms?

This is not an official form. Bidders only need to supply a copy of their proof of liability insurance.
2. Does OMES anticipate the need for any onsite services, or does OMES anticipate that all work by the Supplier will be performed remotely?

OMES anticipates that work may be done through a combination of remote and on site.

3. Attachment A provides a list of 6 activities that the Supplier shall assist OMES in conducting. Does OMES have a breakdown of the desired timing associated with the 6 activities?

No. We will defer to the expertise of a chosen vendor for this.

4. Attachment A states that the Supplier shall assist OMES with the following: “Engage in community outreach regarding broadband expansion and adoption.” Does OMES have further details on desired activities falling under community outreach? Is there a preference for media type and outreach velocity?

No. We will defer to the expertise of a chosen vendor for this.

5. Attachment A states that the Supplier shall assist OMES with the following: “Create and update a State Broadband Plan and other planning documents.” Can OMES provide further detail on what other planning documents OMES anticipates that the Supplier will assist with?

No. We will defer to the expertise of a chosen vendor for this.

6. Are there any key dates/deadlines throughout the next year related to broadband that would impact scoping and timeline?

Key dates and deadlines would include those associated with the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other legislation that provides funding for broadband expansion.

7. To help us effectively scope our proposal response (timeline, depth of analyses), what is the anticipated budget range for this effort?

The state is unable to answer this question.

8. What is the level of granularity you envision for the Broadband Development Map and Database (e.g., ZIP code level, neighborhood level, household/business level)?

The level of granularity in mapping and database exercises should be consistent with federal and state efforts to map broadband access as well as any additional levels or tools needed to effectively complete this project.

9. How is it envisioned that this State Broadband Plan and Broadband Development Map and Database in the proposed scope relates to recent/current broadband-related efforts in the state (e.g., the Oct 2019 Oklahoma State Broadband Plan, the Oklahoma Broadband Interactive Map, the Rural Broadband Expansion Council)?

We will defer to the expertise of a chosen vendor for this.

10. Which State of Oklahoma personnel will be leading the engagement?

The vendor will work closely with various personnel from OMES as well as representatives from other State Agencies, throughout this engagement.

11. In the solicitation, under obligations of the supplier it states that "Supplier shall assist OMES in conducting..." various activities but does not include any details of the scope of deliverables or activities. Further, it asks for personnel details only of the lead and the secondary lead. Based on these requirements combined with the clarification information provided in the linked video relating to the contract vehicle, we are assuming that state has determined that the initial level of effort of the project is equivalent to two full time well qualified resources. Is this assumption correct?

In this process we are establishing broad objectives of the agency. It is for the expert vendors to ask the necessary questions to create a plan (SOW) and determine the best way to achieve that plan. The state has not predetermined any level of effort regarding the two individuals to be named in the vendors' responses. As specified in the RFP, these are the individuals that would be interviewed as part of the evaluation process should a vendor be asked to return to the interview phase of evaluations. These two individuals should be people that would work directly on the project on a day to day basis and develop the plan/SOW. It is not intended that the vendor's entire plan be limited to these individuals, but these two are required for evaluation interview purposes.

12. We are assuming that state will provide the software licenses for creating the broadband development map and database. Most states have access to such software and generally have a preference that vendors use the preferred software, so state staff can continue the activity upon contract end. Is this assumption correct?

We will defer to the expertise of a chosen vendor for this.

13. Section 12 of the RFP documents articulates the potential requirements for business references, however, details for the information that should be provided for the references is not provided. Based on the review of the evaluation of the proposal, we understand that business references are a component of the evaluation. As such, can the State clarify the business reference requirements?

Business references are not required with your submission; however, if a vendor is chosen to proceed to clarification, we will verify any claims made in the original submission documents.

14. Can the state please confirm that we are not required to submit resumes of the two proposed candidates with the proposal submission?

This is correct. Resumes are not required.

15. Would the State entertain a 2-week extension?

This RFP has been extended to January 31, 2022.

16. In Attachment A, the Obligations of the Supplier include creating, updating, and publishing a Broadband Development Map and Database. Has the State already started this process, or should the vendor assume we start from scratch? Is there an existing map or database that the vendor should update? Does it show unserved addresses?

The vendor will work closely with the Oklahoma Rural Broadband Expansion Council and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce in producing a map and database of broadband internet access.

17. What information is available from the State to facilitate mapping? 911 addresses? Other starting points?

This State does not have this information available. Vendors are to use their expertise to make a determination.

18. Bidders' instructions. Cover page. Would it be possible for the State to grant a short extension for our firm and others to submit their responses? We believe that an extension would allow those responding to this RFP the time necessary to provide the necessary detail an RFP of this importance needs and deserves. If not, the selected vendor could end up providing solutions that don't produce the value clearly desired by the ARPA Committee and other state leaders.

This RFP has been extended to January 31, 2022.

19. Attachment A. Purpose and Obligations of Supplier. You reference a State Broadband Development Office and that the selected vendor will assist OMES:

a. Can you confirm that the Oklahoma will have a person/office in place to make decisions and, as such, that the State will not delegate its authority to make decisions?

The state is unable to answer this question.

b. Can you confirm that Oklahoma has an office and/or employee knowledgeable about broadband (presumably within OMES) that the selected vendor will be assisting?

The state is unable to answer this question.

20. Attachment A. Section 2. On your first scope bullet, Broadband Development Map and Database:

a. Can you indicate whether the State or Agencies of the State have already launched this effort?

The state is unable to answer this question.

b. Can you indicate the level of granularity at which this information is being or needs to be collected?

The state is unable to answer this question.

c. Can you indicate whether this information is geo-mapped? At what level of granularity?

The state is unable to answer this question.

21. Can you indicate what broadband mapping infrastructure and databases the State is already working with (if any)?

The state is unable to answer this question.

22. Can you indicate whether the State has a sense of how many grant programs are intended to be tracked when identifying “eligible areas? i.e. Can you indicate whether this mapping is intended to capture grant funding beyond IJA specific programs, such as CARES act, ARPA, or State specific programs?

The vendor should have a deep understanding of the funding landscape for broadband expansion. This includes, but is not limited to, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the American Rescue Plan Act.

23. Can you indicate if the information will be subject to a period of public comment?

The state is unable to answer this question.

24. Can you indicate whether the vendor is expected to use the information collected to comment to the FCC when it publishes its next generation maps on broadband availability (per the comment period described in HR 3684)? And whether it will be the vendor’s responsibility to advise the State on those comments?

The state is unable to answer this question.

25. Attachment A. Section 2. On your second scope bullet, State Broadband Plan, can you indicate:

a. Whether the department has received guidance from the legislature or the executive branch around potential priority constituents (e.g. rural, urban, tribal)?

The state is unable to answer this question.

b. Whether the State has facilitated prior community outreach related to Broadband, and if so, to what degree?

The state is unable to answer this question.

c. Whether the department has developed a working hypothesis on the nature of the programs it needs to deploy (e.g. provider grants only, middle mile programs, program to enable pole attachments, programs to support affordability of high speed broadband)

The state is unable to answer this question.

d. For broadband grant programs, whether the department has developed working hypotheses around programs structure (e.g. reverse auction vs beauty contests for grants; solicited vs unsolicited, cadence, information requirements, nature of contracts, rules for awards, rules for disbursement, etc.)

The state is unable to answer this question.

- e. For other programs in b. above (e.g. middle mile public private partnerships) whether the department has developed similar hypotheses (e.g. locations, rules of access, pricing rules, wholesale, entity managing, structure of the P3 program (e.g. DBFOM), one vs many providers, procurement mechanisms, funding, etc.).

The state is unable to answer this question.

- f. Whether the department has identified or been allocated sources of funding in ARPA (e.g. ESSER, SLRF and CPF), in IIJA (e.g. connectivity grants, AIP, middle mile, digital equity, tribal, affordable connectivity, PABs)

The state is unable to answer this question.

- g. Whether the department has put in place a team and process to apply for discretionary funding in IIJA or whether this is to be executed by the vendor? Whether it has applied for such funding in ARPA?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- h. Whether the legislature or executive branch is likely to put further constraints on the use of funds?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- i. Whether the advisor is expected to help the State define the format and scope of the Broadband plan and “other planning document”, and whether these formats and scopes can be shared now? FYI some State broadband plans include primers, academic studies, expected costs, viable paths forward, etc. but rarely are broadband plans identically structured

The state is unable to answer this question.

26. Attachment A. Section 2. For your third scope bullet, Resource for Information, can you indicate:

- a. Whether communication resources from the State are available to support or execute these services, or whether the bidder is expected to supply all manpower?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- b. Whether you have developed working hypotheses around the target constituents (e.g. communities, ISPs, residents, tribes, political leadership), target information to be shared (e.g. service availability, opportunities for funding, programs in place, deployment progress, expected completion dates) and processes for feedback (e.g. issues identified)

The state is unable to answer this question.

- c. Whether the scope is also to include, in addition to connectivity, device availability, service affordability and digital literacy?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- d. Whether it has been determined if this activity involves setting up a call center? Web portal? Information offices? Conducting Q&A sessions?

The state is unable to answer this question.

27. Attachment A. Section 2. For your fourth scope bullet, Engage in Community Outreach Regarding Broadband, can you indicate:

- a. Whether there are existing outreach efforts in place?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- b. Whether this outreach needs to be targeted to the front end of the process – needs and opportunity identification?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- c. What level of community outreach do you have in mind? (e.g., outreach to providers, to local communities, to not for profits, to constituents, to tribal nations, to educational institutions, and others, across the entire state or in targeted geographies?)

The state is unable to answer this question.

- d. Whether the outreach does cover or should cover all potential programs (e.g. connectivity, devices, affordability, equity)?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- e. Whether the outreach should be used, in the execution part of the process, to enroll participants in the programs (e.g. to publicize state funding programs, to solicit provider applications)?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- f. Whether the outreach should be used to maximize the flow of funds to the benefit of constituents, in cases where money flow directly from the Federal Government to providers (e.g. working with community organization on AIP applications)?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- g. Whether the outreach should be utilized in the tail end of the process, to reach out to impacted parties (e.g. political, community, other constituents) to communicate likely benefits, progress and results? At what level of granularity (i.e. progress in your district? In your town?)

The state is unable to answer this question.

28. Attachment A. Section 2. For your fifth scope bullet, Information Clearinghouse in Relations to Federal Funding and Funding Sources, can you indicate:

- a. Per question 3e above, have you identified the Federal Funding sources and programs, or are you looking for the vendor to do this?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- b. Per question above, have you identified or are there likely to be further constraints on be State's ability to use or disburse the funds?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- c. Does the Clearinghouse function involve facilitating application by constituents (communities, not for profits, tribes) to access such funding on their own?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- d. Does the Clearinghouse function involve facilitation applications by the State to the administering Federal Agencies (e.g. NTIA, FCC, Treasury, Department of Agriculture) to receive it's "fair share" of discretionary federal funding?

The state is unable to answer this question.

29. Attachment A. Section 2. For your sixth scope bullet, Establish a Program to Award Grants, Loans and Other Financial Incentives, can you indicate:

- a. Per items above, whether the State has received guidance or developed initial hypotheses per the nature, structure, funding, of the programs, that can be shared, and will help in restricting the scope of the effort?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- b. Whether the State will have the ability to deploy manpower, development resources, IT resources in support of the execution of these programs or whether these will be the responsibility of the vendor? If so how much and what type?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- c. Whether the State has selected a technology platform to support the grant program (e.g. Microsoft, SAP, others) or whether this decision is to be left to the vendor?

The state is unable to answer this question.

- d. Whether the State has established a Federal compliance program for awarding, reporting and monitoring the flow of funds and avoid clawbacks? Whether the State has experienced in working with Treasury, NTIA, Commerce, USDA and FCC on these issues?

The state is unable to answer this question.

30. Given the lack of detail in the scope, undefined deliverables, and the long period of performance, can you indicate whether you would be open to other forms of pricing (e.g., rate card, price ranges) for some portion of the work which can't be quantified upfront?

The vendor may determine the pricing; however, we would require a total price for each year. For example, if the vendor had an hourly rate we would need the total estimated number of hours for various positions that come to that total. With that, the vendor may use any pricing model but must ultimately have a grand total and how they arrived at that total.

31. Attachment A. Section 1 & 2. Supplier obligations were provided with a multi-year contract term however deliverables were not defined or a workplan schedule of when tasks are to be completed. Please provide additional information to support suppliers in developing workplans for the work to be completed, especially legislatively required due dates that should be considered.

In this process we are proving broad objectives and identifying an expert vendor to create the plan/SOW to get to that objective. Vendors were to use the Q&A period to ask any questions necessary to define their SOW.

32. Bidders' Instructions. Page 5 of 16. Section 8.1.E.1. In addition to the Bidder Expert Lead Form, should a resume of key resources be provided as part of the response to the RFQ? If yes, then in which section of the response?

No, resumes are not required.

33. Bidders' Instructions. Page 10 of 16. Section 8.1.H.v. Please clarify what is requested in this section. Is the supplier expected to draft and propose the scope of work?

This is not required

34. Bidders' Instructions. Page 11 of 16. Section 8.1.L. Section Twelve: Business References. Is it correct to assume that this section requests contact information for past performance references? If yes, what information is required (email, address, etc.) and how many from which timeframe?

References are not required; however, any claims made in the level of expertise document will be verified if the vendor proceeds to clarification. Vendors should be prepared to have that information available (email of contact to verify claims) for past performance.

35. Bidders' Instructions. Page 4 of 16. Section 8.1.B. The best value criteria covers the LE, RA, and VA plan, we did not see where the technical approach being proposed in order to demonstrate ability of the Bidder to meet or exceed any acquisition specifications and requirements. How will technical approaches be considered in the evaluation?

They are not. The evaluation criteria are the Level of Expertise, Risk Assessment, Value Added, Interview, and Cost. One it is narrowed down to a single vendor they will proceed to clarification where they will present their full SOW and a full technical review will take place. The evaluation criteria are to identify the expert vendor.

36. Can you please share any existing broadband coverage maps and/or broadband database that may have been created as part of Oklahoma's current or past broadband efforts?

The state is unable to answer this question.

37. If the selected vendor will be expected to build the broadband database from scratch, what data sources for existing or datapoints do you anticipate the selected vendor will use?

The state is unable to answer this question.

38. Do you expect the selected vendor to conduct field visits; and if so, to what types (e.g. counties, cities, buildings) and numbers for each location type?

The state is unable to answer this question.

39. Can you please any prior Oklahoma State Broadband Plan(s)?

The state is unable to answer this question.

40. How many planning documents are anticipated to be created and with what frequency?

The state is unable to answer this question.

41. Will OMES outline the requirements/criteria to create state broadband plan?

The broad objectives of the State are in Attachment A. We are seeking an expert vendor to demonstrate expertise and create the plan/SOW needed to implement reach the objectives.

42. What is expected from the selected vendor to establish resources to provide information on Broadband service and digital connectivity? How many broadband queries/meetings are expected in a week, month, or year?

The state is unable to answer this question.

43. Can you please briefly outline the requirements or examples for community outreach efforts you anticipate will need to be performed by the selected vendor?

The state is unable to answer this question.

44. As an information clearinghouse, can you please describe the types of information you expect the selected vendor to share and maintain, and the stakeholders the selected vendor will be expected to engage?

The state is unable to answer this question.

45. Will Oklahoma state employees be assigned to direct the selected vendor in executing the Broadband Plan?

The state is unable to answer this question.

46. Can you please share the Oklahoma state employees roles, skills and numbers that will be assigned to work with the selected vendor to:
- a. Review and approve vendor drafted deliverables:
 - i. State Broadband Plan
 - ii. Broadband Deployment Map and Database
 - iii. Broadband Grant Evaluation and Prioritization criteria
 - iv. Broadband Grant Application Form and required content
 - v. Outreach materials
 - vi. Individual grant, loan and other financial incentive applications reviews and recommendations
 - vii. Technical proposal reviews and recommendations
 - viii. Broadband adoption success measures and reporting
 - b. Approve or deny grant, loan and other financial incentive applications submitted

The state is unable to answer this question.

47. Can you please list the funding sources that Oklahoma intends to incorporate into the Broadband Plan grants, loans or other financial incentives?

The state is unable to answer this question.

48. How many partnerships at the state, local and tribal levels does OMES anticipate the selected vendor to establish and maintain?

The state is unable to answer this question.

49. Can you share Oklahoma policy to be considered the selected vendor will need to utilize in planning and communication in addition to federal policy?

The state is unable to answer this question.

50. What data visualization tools is the state already using/ have access to?

The state is unable to answer this question.

51. Does the State want to visualize existing free data sets, or identify new, previously unknown, unserved areas using data visualization tools?

The state is unable to answer this question.

52. What specific planning documents does the state anticipate needing?

The state is unable to answer this question.

53. What is the involvement of state agencies in establishing a grant program and other financial incentives? What is the current capacity of the agency? Would the firm be an extender of the current agency?

The state is unable to answer this question.

54. When establishing partnerships at the federal, state, local and tribal levels is there any agency support for individuals to help with implementation, or will this be up to the selected firm to provide all staffing?

The state is unable to answer this question.

55. What are the expectations around evaluating and communicating policy?

The state is unable to answer this question.

b. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Supplier Company Name (**PRINT**)

Date

Authorized Representative Name (**PRINT**) Title

Authorized Representative Signature