ADDENDUM SJC WAN CONNECTIVITY - FY2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: 2025 - SJC Wide-Area Network(WAN) Services RFP

ADDENDUM IDENTIFIER: **Engineering And Sales Offeror's Conference Q&A**

DATE of ADDENDUM: **December 6, 2024**

To All Potential Bidders:

This addendum revises specific elements of the previously issued bid documents and hereby becomes part of the bid documents identified as **SJC WAN Connectivity - FY2025 /470# 250005868**. Please attach this addendum to the documents in your possession.

Per the RFP, **(Section A)**, the Bidder must acknowledge receipt of addenda by signing and returning with the original RFP documents. It is the Bidder's responsibility to insure receipt of any addenda. Failure to submit a signed addendum may result in rejection of a proposal.

ENGINEERING AND SALES OFFEROR'S CONFERENCE Q & A - December 3, 2024

Q   *Attachment F - Self provisioned fibre portion; Which example should the vendor be using? Self provisioned or connection routes*

A   **Either option is viable, we anticipate leased lit fiber will terminate at the ISD datacenter, but also wanted to give an option for those that wish to self provision their fiber. Both sheets / tabs are <u>EXAMPLES</u> and are <u>NOT</u> requirements. We will fairly evaluate the merit of any proposed route(s).**

Q   *Can we get a quick summary of the use cases and current configuration so bids can be tailored to our configuration?*

A   **Currently configured as a leased-lit star terminating at ISD Data Center. Service currently delivers internal network services to districts such as phones (VoIP and SIP), Central Network Management and Monitoring, and Directory Services. Some districts have a few edge services.**

   Five connections are 1GB connections (Centreville, Constantine, Mendon, Nottawa, White Pigeon). Two connections are 2 GB connections (Sturgis and

Three Rivers).

We are seeing a need for higher bandwidth than we currently have for some services such as video archiving and internet usage.

Two districts in our county are not a part of our Technology Consortium but are included in this bid for connectivity services. We are also hoping to provide connectivity to our local libraries in the future.

Q   *Which districts are currently not a part of the County Consortium?*

A   **Colon Community Schools and Burr Oak Community Schools**

Q   *For any sort of management subscriptions, is there a preferred service length?*

A   **3-Year and 5-Year terms are requested along with details on extending support beyond that initial length.**

Q   *For the optical solution, what is the longest term you are requesting?*

A   **Per Section D, we are requesting a 36-month term with 2x 12-month extensions and a 60-month term with 2x 60 month extensions. We will select our initial term based upon the solution proposed up to 60-months.**

Q   *For the sites of the 2 districts not in the consortium, is the vendor providing the equipment, or is the district providing that equipment?*

A   **Any WAN connection at the district would be provided by the WAN consortium. This would hand-off to district-owned equipment.**

Q   *Are the two districts not belonging to the Consortium included in the RFP?*

A   **They are included as far as connectivity services however, they have the ability to opt out after reviewing the proposals. The remainder of the consortium will review the full proposals.**

Q   *Are you open for vendors to submit it both with and without the two extraneous districts?*

A   **All submissions must include a proposal with all districts. Alternate proposals will be evaluated as well.**

   Per the terms of the RFP it should be noted that any district may withdraw prior to contract acceptance.

   Per the terms of the RFP it should be noted that any and all services are contingent upon USAC funding.

Q   *When building new fiber, do you have a preference on using existing conduit/pathways or prefer new construction?*

A   **Plan for all building entrances to be new construction. There may be capacity within existing conduit that could be used, but will need to be verified during engineering at that site.**

Q   *Regarding a lit solution, is there a point to point or point to multipoint? Any need to cross communicate?*

A   **Everything is point-to-point back to the ISD Datacenter with cross-district routing done at that point. For a lit solution, a point-to-point physical connection between sites is not required and data may traverse the carrier's back-end network so long as SLA requirements are met.**

Q   *For new building entrances, is there a preference for new entrance locations?*

A   **In the event that we have a new entrance needed, we will work with engineering to denote the location of the building entrance. The physical addresses provided in the RFP and its addenda are where the demarcation point for each district will be.**

Q   *Looking at the timeline, when would you expect contract execution? (In the frame of fiber construction timeline, approval, ETC)*

A   **It would have to be executed after July 1st due to E-Rate Requirements, but Board Approval has to be provided in March. All of this is contingent upon Board Approval and USAC funding. We would sign a Letter of Intent but invoicing and work needs to be performed after July 1, 2025.**

Q   *Would we be doing SBI invoicing?*

A   **Any invoicing or installation can not happen until after July 1, 2025.**

Q   *Is the ISD open for a larger construction window?*

A   **We are aware that the construction process may be large, but we will need to work with our E-Rate Consultant to make sure we are compliant with USAC/E-Rate Policies with regards to extensions of the construction window.**

Q   *Is the consortium at 83% or 90% rural county?*

A   **The existing consortium (excluding Burr Oak and Colon) is at 83% this year. However, the state will be releasing new numbers before January 1, 2025. We anticipate the number to remain relatively the same.**

Q   *Is the ISD going after the State Matching grant?*

A   **If available, yes. We've expressed interest with regards to the State Matching grant to the State of Michigan but are waiting to hear more.**

Q   *Is there a possibility of a second HUB site?*

A   **It's something we've considered in the past but not at the moment.**

Q   *What section contains the bandwidth of the current runs? Which runs are the 2gb runs?*

A   **We noticed we don't have that listed but 2GB sites are Site 6 - Sturgis Central Commons, and Site 7 - Three Rivers High School. All other sites are 1Gb circuits.**

Q   *Is there a preferred bandwidth for these connections?*

A   **Requesting 10 GB for all - should be detailed in Section B - 11.1.1**

Q *It was noticed on the site list there are some sites that are already connected, is there a preference on a connection type?*

A **They are on leased circuits, we are exploring all options - leased, dark, self-provisioned, etc.**

Q *Would you be willing to use meet-me points?*

A **Some districts may have eligible "meet-me" or splice points while many will not. It should be planned that no "meet-me" points are available but we will discuss the viability with engineering for the selected solution.**

-- END OF ADDENDUM - CONFERENCE Q&A --

Acknowledgement of Addendum _____ Date: _____