

COVER SHEET

<b>Name of Person, Business or Organization:</b>	
<b>Type of Entity:</b> (e.g. Sole-Proprietorship, Partnership, Corp., Non-Profit, Public Agency)	
<b>Federal Tax ID Number:</b>	
<b>Contact Person – Name</b>	
<b>Contact Person – Address</b>	
<b>Contact Person – Phone Number (s)</b>	
<b>Contact Person – e-mail address</b>	

By signing this **Cover Sheet** I hereby attest: that I have read and understood all the terms listed in the RFP and I have read and understood all terms listed in this request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Title of Authorized Representative

**Camas County, Idaho**

**Request for Proposal (“RFP”) For**

**Fiber Broadband Open Access Network Design and Construction  
and Maintenance and Operation**

January 24, 2024

**Submission Deadline:** February 16, 2024

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SUBJECT: High-Speed Internet/Broadband Network Design and Construction and Maintenance and Operation

INQUIRIES: All inquiries or questions must be directed to Travis Kramer, Camas County, Chairman, County Commissioners, at [kramer.camas@gmail.com](mailto:kramer.camas@gmail.com). Questions must be received no later than February 2, 2024. If a determination is made that a clarification or change to the RFP document is required, a written addendum will be posted on the appropriate section of the Website of the County. Respondents are responsible for obtaining all RFP updates.

Responses must be delivered via email or by hand delivery no later than 4:00p.m. Mountain Standard Time on February 16, 2024.

For hand delivery:

Attn: Travis Kramer

Title: Chairman, County Commission, Camas County

Address: 501 Soldier Road, Fairfield, ID

Or via email to: [kramer.camas@gmail.com](mailto:kramer.camas@gmail.com)

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Submittals must be labeled:

**“Fiber Broadband Open Access Network  
Design and Construction and Maintenance and Operation”**

# Request for Proposal

January 24, 2024

## **RESPONSE DUE DATE AND TIME: February 16, 2024 by 4:00 P.M. Mountain Standard Time**

THIS IS A **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) ONLY**. Respondents are advised the County will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFP; all costs associated with responding to this RFP will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFP does not preclude participation in any future RFP.

All questions, inquiries and comments regarding this solicitation must be submitted only in writing by **February 2, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. (MST)**. Such submission, if any, must be sent to Travis Kramer at [kramer.camas@gmail.com](mailto:kramer.camas@gmail.com).

**RESPONDENTS WILL NEED TO SUBMIT ON A FIRM NOT-TO-EXCEED COST BASIS A PROPOSAL FOR (i) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE OPEN ACCESS NETWORK AND (ii) MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE OPEN ACCESS NETWORK AS A TURNKEY SOLUTION WITHIN THE GRANT AMOUNT PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF IDAHO THROUGH THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE GRANT AMOUNT INCLUDES FUNDING FOR OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT.**

### **I. Introduction**

The County of Camas, Idaho ("County") is requesting proposals from Vendors to design, build, maintain and operate an open access next generation communications network that will provide high-speed Internet access service to single-family and multi-family residences, businesses, and community and anchor institutions within the County.

**The County submitted a Grant Application, exhibits and maps or shape files to the Idaho Department of Commerce ("IDOC") and was awarded a Grant by the State of Idaho. It should be noted that certain aspects of that grant are to cover other expenses and operation of the Open Access Network ("Network") in addition to design and construction of the Network. The implementation of the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the Network was dependent and contingent upon a Contract and its Attachments being drafted, negotiated and finalized between IDOC and the County, which were finalized on or about December 21, 2023 (" hereinafter collectively the IDOC Contract") and upon the full amount of the funding being received on a timely basis from the State through IDOC upon completing milestones in Phases. The County shall not be responsible or liable to the**

successful respondent or any other person or entity in the event that the full amount of the aforesaid funding is not received on a timely basis from the State, based on milestones from IDOC. A copy of the 2023 CPF Grant Agreement (IDOC Contract) which sets forth the available funding and project description and milestones is incorporated herein by reference and available for viewing on the County's Website. A successful respondent will be responsible for designing, constructing, maintaining and operating the Network in accordance with the terms of the IDOC Contract.

Since the funding for the project depends upon that funding being received from the State and IDOC, proposals must be based on a Firm Fixed Cost with firm not-to-exceed numbers for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the Network. It is not anticipated that the County will have any additional funding available for change orders or unforeseen costs. The successful respondent will be responsible for bearing any such additional costs and neither the State nor the County will have additional funding to contribute to the design, construction, maintenance or operation of the Network.

Further, the County needs this network to be designed, built, maintained and operated in the most efficient manner possible. For that reason, it is looking for a turn-key solution from respondents. It is the responsibility of the respondent to either provide all of these services itself or assemble a team that can do so throughout the anticipated contract term of ten-fifteen (10-15) years. Respondents will not be allowed to bid on only a portion or portions of this RFP.

**Broadband**, for the purposes of this RFP, shall have the meaning given to it in the IDOC Contract:

**Broadband Service** for the purpose of Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure is service that meets the following criteria:

- Is a wireline or fixed wireless service that reliably provides two-way data transmission with speeds of at least 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) for download transmission and 100 Mbps for upload transmission.
- For locations where a symmetrical 100/100 Mbps service is not feasible, Broadband Service may include service that reliably provides speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload and is scalable to 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload.
- Broadband Service does not include a commercial mobile radio (cellular) service or internet service from a satellite connection.

For the purposes of this RFP, other terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein when indicated within the text of the RFP by being capitalized. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural include the singular, and words in the singular include the plural. Words not defined, or those defined, but not capitalized within the text shall be given their common and ordinary meaning. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

The County's ultimate goal: fiber of 1 Gig symmetrical service will serve as the definition of "next generation" service for this RFP, and the fiber Network shall be future-proofed to 10 Gig symmetrical.

The County may provide a variety of forms of support, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Streamlining access to infrastructure, rights-of-way and inspections;
- Identify market demand;
- Assistance in demand aggregation;
- Long-term contracts and support for the development of high bandwidth applications to drive adoption;
- Marketing assistance (including working directly with vendors, local business leaders and community leaders to increase revenue opportunities for the County and lower costs for consumers);
- Reviewing local rules, regulations or requirements to decrease the cost to deploy or operate the Network; and
- Funding from the State Capital Grant Funds.

By "Open Access", the County means that the Network's fiber and facilities must be provided and made available through reasonable and non-discriminatory access arrangements that:

- Allow multiple Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to ride on the Network; and
- Permit such providers to differentiate their product offerings, services and speeds.

In addition, the Operator of the Network ("Operator") must not limit the ability of retail service providers or their customers to run applications, use services and connect devices of their choice to the Network.

The County will be the owner of the Network, including but not limited to design, engineering, fiber and equipment. The Operator will be the manager/operator of the network and will bear all the operating and maintenance costs of the Network under a contract to be negotiated. The Operator should demonstrate a clear upgrade path for the Network to meet future consumer demand and service developments to at least 10 Gig symmetrical and preferably beyond.

## **II. Scope of Work**

### **A. Attributes of the Network**

Please provide information regarding the location and types of physical infrastructure, **Wireline and Fixed Wireless and Wireless** that will be used for Network deployment:

- The *physical fiber, towers, antennas, and transmission and reception equipment that must be deployed;*
- *Coverage area maps for the County;*
- A description of *how the connection to the power source is made;*

- The *types of supporting appurtenances needed* for collocation above ground or the wireless access point underground (such as a wireline interface for backhaul purposes);
- The *nature of the access points* that would be needed under a variety of different scenarios taking into account the number and types of users, topography and overcoming rural areas with a lack of housing density and other factors that would impact deployment;
- A description of the *server, hardware, software, back-office infrastructure and other components* that would be needed to support the Network;
- The *system monitoring tools* that would be employed to track performance and system usage, and alert the Operator for the need to address peak periods and boost capacity;
- Overall Design Characteristics - describe the best practices in a wireless system design that could be deployed in the County. The County is especially interested in developments regarding:
  - Mesh technology;
  - Tower height requirements;
  - Systems designed for only outdoor coverage; and
  - Systems designed for both outdoor and indoor coverage. Discuss methods for and costs to customers for overcoming obstacles in order to receive service indoors. In particular, discuss reception in homes incorporating stucco siding and other materials not conducive to allowing signals to reach indoor equipment.
- System implementation needed to support priority-based services (emergency communications);
- How effective throughputs of at least 1 Gbps can be achieved and the basis or underlying assumptions to support the ability to deliver such throughputs (costs, average take rates, residential or business user density, etc.);
- The technology refresh cycles that should be incorporated into network design and operation to ensure that the system does not become obsolete;
- The scalability of the system to support an increasing number of users and uses;
- Development of spectrum on the system for utilization by public safety entities;
- Potential benefits for and enhancements to networks currently in use by the County and its agencies;
- Smart County/IoT capabilities that address environmental, weather, transportation, public safety communications and creation of government efficiencies; and
- To the extent applicable, the successful respondent will construct towers, find suitable location(s) for towers and assist the County in acquiring or leasing land for towers as such towers are set forth in the Grant Application, exhibits and maps or Shape Files or are as otherwise necessary to make the Open Access Network operational.

Related to the Proposal sought by the County herein, if there are any *alternative concepts that have heretofore not been mentioned* that you think that the County should consider, please describe them in detail.

## **B. Construction and Installation Possibilities**

The County is aware that there are *a variety of potential system construction and installation possibilities*. Related to this (to the extent that information is available rather than being developed at a later date), please provide information regarding the following related to the Network. For

the best organizational model(s) and system concepts for the County, describe in your response the most efficient way to design, construct, maintain and operate the Network:

- **The typical timeframe for walk-out, design and other pre-construction work related to your proposed system concept** including gaining all necessary zoning approvals and other required permits.
- **The typical time** from the beginning of construction and installation **to complete system turn-up, acceptance testing and service activation.**
- **How pilot, and ultimately complete system, acceptance testing would occur**, including both physical plant compliance with all required codes and electronic system compliance with all required regulations, as well as a demonstration that all performance criteria are met or exceeded.

### **C. Ongoing Support**

The County is concerned about ongoing support requirements from several different perspectives. First, the County wants to ensure that the system will continue to be viable and useful in the long-term for internal applications as well as resident, business and visitor use. Second, the County is concerned about the impact from a technical and customer service support point of view, including both manpower and material considerations. Please describe how these concerns can be addressed.

### **D. Availability of Materials and Labor**

IDOC's simultaneous award of Capital Project Funds ("CPF") grants will create a very competitive environment for securing materials and labor. This coupled with upcoming BEAD contracts in Idaho and other states may result in shortages of labor and materials. **Explain how you intend to successfully address those challenges on a proactive basis, in order to meet the Network construction deadline specified in the County's CPF Grant.**

### **E. Other Services**

The County would also like to gain a better understanding of other services that could be incorporated into and deployed in conjunction with the Network. In light of this, from a high-level overview, please provide information concerning the following while being mindful of Confidential or Proprietary information. The following are examples but not an all-encompassing list of possibilities. Therefore, please add as necessary:

- **Wi-Fi** -- what is the best use of Wi-Fi technology in conjunction with Small Wireless Facilities? What kind of range and hot spots are recommended?
- **Fiber** -- Is fiber needed for the rollout of the entire project?
- **Various tiers of residential and business-class high-speed Internet service-** How would the service be implemented (in phases)?
- **High capacity broadband connections (primary or back-up) between public facilities,** such as government and school district buildings.
- Enablement of **remote/field operations**, such as:
  - Inspection and other field services;



- Services for many types of public agency and commercial teleworkers;
- Public Safety and transportation services data transmission and reception;
- Receipt and transport of graphic-intensive data such as GIS maps, photographs, sheriff files and other images/ files, etc.; and
- **Critical emergency service communications** including everything from medical telemetry to Reverse 911 messages (how can either current or future technology be utilized to target emergency messages to just one or a small group of Access Point (AP) locations).
- **Internet Protocol (IP) Video** communications, including:
  - Streaming video;
  - Video for first responder and incident management use;
  - Surveillance video cameras and drone footage;
  - Training and educational video; and
  - Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access video, including live community events and meeting coverage as well as outreach information about government and educational programs and services.
- **Voice over IP** communications.
- **Telecommuting**, including both portable and mobile.
- **Monitoring and control services** (supervisory control and data acquisition [SCADA], automatic meter reading [AMR], etc.), including enablement of automatic polling systems for meter reading, pump and flow readings and environmental instrument monitoring, as well as traffic signal control and traffic monitoring.
- **Location based services** such as automatic vehicle locators (AVL) and autonomous vehicles.
- **Directional services**, such as those through integrated geographic information system (GIS) mapping/global positioning system (GPS) platforms.
- **Personalization services** for e-government and e-commerce purposes.
- **Transactional-based services** including immediate request services and access to fee-based services.
- **Digital Inclusion** --Respondents should propose methods to assist the County in overcoming, in particular, the obstacles and issues in order to achieve a greater degree of digital inclusion.
- **What are the company philosophies and technology approaches relating to security over the life of the Network?**
- **What end measures should governmental entities take to ensure an optimum level of secure transport?**
- **How will the network comply with applicable privacy laws?**
  - Describe how the Network operator will **comply with all applicable privacy laws** and track uses and users on the network only to facilitate lawful inquiries.
- **Computer literacy training.**
  - What are the most viable methods of offering computers, computer and Network literacy training, or funding for such, to organizations and people within the County?
- **Network access to the public via on-site computers and equipment.**
  - Can higher levels of no or low-cost service, at least 1 Gbps symmetrical, be offered to libraries and non-profit organizations that provide public access to the Internet?

## **F. Work Statements**

Key market goals include identifying and minimizing barriers to competition, evaluating business capabilities, and identifying risks and appropriate terms and conditions. Please comment on the following:

1. The County anticipates that leasing capacity to broadband providers will be a main component of wireline and wireless deployment. One of the immediate concerns is to expand broadband options for residents, businesses, visitors and government. How long will this take?
2. The County is looking for a Proposal regarding creative and innovative system solutions.
3. The County has indicated several goals and objectives as the key drivers for the Network. Together these goals are designed to satisfy the following: Coverage, Capacity, Mobility, Speed, Reliability, Redundancy, Affordability and Access. How will you meet these goals and objectives? We encourage respondents to provide information on *how these goals and objectives can be achieved using various models* that are successfully in service in other systems.
4. Please provide a project narrative along the following guidelines:
  - a. Detail the requested project (miles of fiber, height of overall facilities including any poles, support structures, appurtenances, towers, microwave dishes, antennas, etc.).
  - b. If parts of the project are not collocations, please provide justification as to why the equipment cannot be collocated on an existing pole or other support structure.
  - c. Describe the screening techniques that will be used to screen or camouflage any small wireless facilities.
  - d. Describe in detail your company's deployment plan in the County for the next 1-3 years.
  - e. Describe in detail the level of interest you have in utilizing County poles, conduit, fiber and towers.
  - f. Describe the use of smart poles, which may or may not include replacement of existing poles.
  - g. Describe use of digital signage.
  - h. Describe the compensation which your company is willing to pay the County on a per pole basis for recurring yearly use as well as application and permit fees. Describe the compensation which your company is willing to pay the County for recurring yearly use of the Network.
  - i. Please include any other relevant information you deem important.

## **III. Responses and Other Requirements**

All interested parties are hereby invited to submit a proposal of no more than thirty (30) pages of narrative and up to fifteen (15) pages of attachments. The County will review each proposal based

on the interested party's demonstrated qualifications, capabilities, expertise, experience and past performance in the areas included in the Scope of Work. ***Please provide examples of municipalities, counties, regions, etc., where the models you describe have been successfully implemented by you.*** Price will not be the sole determining factor for selection; however, the proposal amount in total cannot exceed the CPF grant to the County while taking into account that several other aspects of the project will require use of funds from the CPF Grant.

The proposal shall include the following as a minimum:

- A. Name, telephone number, e-mail address and mailing address of the designated point of contact;
- B. Business type (i.e., corporation, limited liability, sole proprietorship, certified small disadvantaged business, woman-owned business, veteran-owned business);
- C. An innovative solution that is offered;
- D. Unique product features;
- E. Price;
- F. Vendor experience in the market;
- G. Financial stability of a vendor;
- H. Differences among vendors in their ability to perform contract requirements in a timely or efficient manner;
- I. Ability to meet product specifications;
- J. Product and service quality;
- K. Product and service performance records;
- L. Past performance by a vendor;
- M. Future product maintenance or service requirements;
- N. Product warranties;
- O. Experience designing, constructing, maintaining and operating a high-speed broadband network; and
- P. References - Three (3): name, address, email address and phone number.

Given the dollar magnitude of this project, in order to be a qualified respondent, respondent must, if selected, be a Licensed Public Works Contractor in the State of Idaho with at least a AAA Rating or an Unlimited Rating and must maintain a license at that level for the duration of a contract with the County. To support such rating, and demonstrate financial stability, Respondent is encouraged to provide Audited or Unaudited Financial Statements for the past three (3) years. We would also encourage Respondent to mark those Financial Statements as "Confidential and Proprietary". The County can make no assurance as to how the Financial Statements will be treated under the Idaho Public Records Act.

#### **IV. Open Access Network Platform**

The County intends that the Network will serve as a development platform for innovation, next generation application development, workforce development and job creation throughout the County.

## **V. Technical Proposal**

The proposal should establish the ability of the proposer to satisfactorily perform **from start to finish the Project** by reason of:

- Capabilities and capacity to perform services and implement Network build-out;
- Strength and stability of the firm/organization;
- Experience in performing work of a similar nature and size;
- Expertise in **Broadband Open Access Projects**;
- Identify all personnel who will be assigned to work on this project and the firm's office in which they are each located;
- Commitment and dedication of necessary resources to support the County's needs;
- Staffing capability and workload; and
- Record of meeting performance standards on similar projects.

## **VI. ANY PROJECT WORK RELATED TO THIS RFP MUST COMPLY WITH ALL CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE RULES AND GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE USE OF CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS UNDER FEDERAL, IDAHO AND LOCAL LAWS.**

## **VII. Overview**

This RFP seeks proposals for the deployment and operation by a qualified vendor of a high-speed Open Access fiber network for the residents and businesses in the County. The objectives are to establish a Network that:

- Is eventually able to offer retail services with a guaranteed sustained minimum of 1 Gig symmetrical service which will serve as the definition of "next generation" service, and the fiber Network shall be future-proofed to 10 Gig symmetrical;
- Upon completion of the Network, the Network must be capable of 10 GIG symmetrical;
- Uses fiber-to-the-premises network architecture where economically feasible in conjunction with the County's Grant Application, exhibits and maps or shape files to IDOC;
- Facilitates competition through open access arrangements;
- Enables low wholesale access prices that reflect underlying costs;
- Is able to support high quality voice, data and video services;
- Provide access to approximately eighty-five percent (85%) or more of residences within the County or such other percentage as provided in the IDOC Grant Application, exhibits and maps or shape files;
- Will provide service for small businesses in the County;
- Initial availability is rolled out and made operational with 100% completion by December 31, 2026;
- Promotes the long term economic and community interest of the County and end users; and
- Facilitates opportunities for small and medium enterprises and local enterprises to provide services.

## **VIII. Description of Services Sought**

- A. This Network shall be a fully operational high-speed communications network using Internet protocol technology and allowing users access to and from the Internet and access to other services as required.
- B. The County expects that potential vendors will deliver Fiber-to-the-premises where economically feasible to provide gigabit service to households, businesses and institutions throughout the County. This system must include all active and passive infrastructure, including, but not limited to fiber cabling, active repeater equipment, uninterruptible power supplies, network cross-connections, software and ancillary equipment.
- C. Services rendered must include complete system design, engineering, construction, operation, monitoring, maintenance, management and enhancement; as well as end user customer service and maintenance; and negotiation and execution of access agreements with retail services providers (ISPs).

## **IX. Network Characteristics**

- Network Requirements: The Vendor's response shall identify the specific network characteristics it plans for minimum capacity (in terms of number of fibers and/or bandwidth capacity) for:
  - The backbone or area rings,
  - Residential users,
  - Business users,
  - Institutional users,
  - Government institutions/public safety users, and
  - Any other network-wide characteristics as identified.
- Connection for Public Services
  - The Network should provide Public Infrastructure Monitoring (e.g., traffic lights, speed cameras, cameras on other public structures, water and wastewater monitoring);
  - Support for educational services.
- Services on Wholesale Open Network
  - Development and implementation of open access structure for wholesale and retail service delivery and competition;
  - Bandwidth and technology gateway for access to cloud based triple play and over-the-top (OTT) services (online delivery of video and audio content);
  - In-house billing services;
  - Wholesale Internet access service;
  - Physical and logical layer network service access; and
  - Secure IP services.
- Network Operations Center (NOC) Services
  - The Vendor shall have and maintain an established NOC;
  - The Vendor will provide monitoring of the Network on a 24/7 basis from its NOC;
  - The NOC shall provide device monitoring, outage notifications, configuration of devices, diagnostics, repair dispatch, and other NOC services.

- Customer Service
  - The Vendor shall provide and maintain a customer service call center for sales, information, and other miscellaneous issues.
  - The Vendor shall provide systems to allow the ordering and activation of:
    - Wholesale services on the network;
    - Track customer acquisition and produce invoices; and
    - Provide invoicing for customers and Service Providers.
- Field Technician Services
  - The Vendor will provide field technician services including dispatch and resolution services.
  - The Vendor shall provide field crews and/or contractors to be deployed in the field to manage the physical infrastructure of the Network.
- Marketing
  - The Vendor shall instigate and oversee any marketing and communication efforts that are necessary to the Network's success.
  - The Vendor shall recruit and manage personnel and/or contractors to assist in promoting the Network and grow its subscriber base.
- IT Systems
  - The Vendor shall be responsible for incremental costs for software licensing expenses incurred for managing the Network including device monitoring, billing software, configuration management and automated provisioning systems.
- Geographic Information System (GIS)
  - The Vendor will be responsible for collecting and maintaining GIS data for the Network, including the costs for any software licensing, hardware and data archival expenses.
  - GIS data of the Network shall be shared with the County.
- Geospatial Data Reporting: The successful respondent must submit to IDOC, and update upon request, geospatial data regarding the extent of its project construction. Geospatial data submissions include both an Initial Geospatial Dataset and a Final Geospatial Dataset due at completion of the project.
  - Initial Geospatial Dataset. An Initial Geospatial Dataset may require updates upon request of IDOC. An Initial Geospatial Dataset must show the following elements of the awarded project: (a) the wireline route, and/or the location of tower placements and modelled wireless coverage; and (b) the locations proposed to be passed and serviceable by the project, including the latitude and longitude of the related structure receiving broadband service.
  - Final Geospatial Dataset. Upon completion of the project, a Final Geospatial Dataset and a list of BSL IDs are due at the same time the County submits a final request for payment from IDOC. A Final Geospatial Dataset must show the following elements of the completed project: (a) the wireline route, and/or the location of tower placements and modelled wireless coverage; and (b) the locations passed and serviceable (not necessarily subscribed to) by the completed project, including the latitude and longitude of the related structure receiving broadband service. The BSL IDs and geospatial data shall be filed in the manner instructed by IDOC.

## **X. Business Plan**

- A. The Vendor shall submit a business plan describing its approach to the project described in this RFP. The business plan shall describe the Vendor's approach to the design, construction, operation and management of the Network and the services to be provided over the Network in sufficient detail to allow the County to effectively consider the proposal.
- B. The Vendor shall also include a description of the day-to-day operations and explain how the Vendor will fulfill the scope of work. This should include, at a minimum, the following:
1. Technology: A description of the network technologies underlying the proposed network solution(s) included in the response.
    - a. Technologies proposed and the limitations of each technology.
    - b. As much detail as possible regarding the network design including, but not limited to, network design criteria, network elements, architecture, protocols, system reliability, availability, and operations and maintenance; and
    - c. Network performance characteristics, including the range of offerings, the capacity and other factors relevant for each proposed solution.
  2. Service Offerings: A description of proposed wholesale or retail service offerings that the Vendor anticipates offering to institutional, business and residential customers.
  3. Rollout Strategy: A discussion of the anticipated deployment strategy, scope and timing of the proposed rollout.
  4. Financial Projections: The business plan should include a pro forma financial statement, identifying projected capital outlays, ongoing operational costs, and expected revenues from wholesale and retail services for at least the first three (3) years of construction and operation.

## **XI. Project Schedule**

The Vendor shall provide a project schedule as part of their response that conforms to the County's milestones in the IDOC Contract Attachments.

## **XII. Vendor Qualifications**

- Experience in High-Speed Network Design, Construction, Maintenance And Operation -- The Vendor shall provide a statement of experience highlighting similar network systems that it has designed, constructed, maintained or operated, including project name, location, size and technology used.

- Financial Stability -- The Vendor shall submit its three (3) most recent annual audited financial statements in order to permit analysis of its financial resources. If audited financial statements are unavailable due to confidentiality reasons, submit recent D&B reports. In addition, each vendor or team shall provide a bond in the amount equal to the cost of fully completing the project in phases.
- Staff Technical and Managerial Experience -- The Vendor shall include a statement of experience and resumes of the project team, including the project manager and other key personnel who will be assigned to this project. Also include a list of any known or anticipated subcontractors along with their roles and responsibilities.
- Ability of the Vendor to Meet the Audit Requirements - Ability to meet the rigorous and extensive ongoing State and Federal Filing and Reporting Requirements for 2024-2026 and beyond December 31, 2026.
- Evidence of Legal Capacity – Compliance with Idaho registration and licensing requirements.
- Insurance - Proof of Coverage – If selected, the successful proposer shall furnish certificates of insurance to the County in the amounts required by the County.
- Security -- The successful respondent shall provide a performance bond and construction bonds to ensure the faithful performance of its responsibilities.
- Compliance with Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 -- If awarded a contract and that contract exceeds \$5 million dollars, then the successful respondent and its contractors and subcontractors must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 and any related amendments.

### **XIII. Administrative Issues**

- Availability of the RFP and Amendments -- This RFP and accompanying documents are available on the County's Website at [www.camascounty.id.gov](http://www.camascounty.id.gov). Amendments to the RFP will be posted on that Website. Any amendments supersede prior provisions and are effective upon posting on the Website, and each potential bidder is responsible for checking the Website to learn of any amendments.
- Questions about the RFP --
  - The County will not entertain any oral contacts regarding this RFP.
  - RFP respondents should not make contact with anyone other than the designated County contact. Any attempts to contact others at the County regarding this RFP may be grounds for the County to reject your submission.
- Proposal Format and Certification --
  - Proposals should be organized in the same sequence as shown in this RFP.
  - A duly authorized officer or agent of the Vendor must sign the proposal.

### **XIV. Project Calendar**

- Two (2) notices for soliciting bids to the RFP will be published in the official newspaper of the County as follows:
  - First Notice to be published on January 24, 2024
  - Second Notice to be published on January 31, 2024
- RFP issued: January 24, 2024



- Last date to submit questions: February 2, 2024
- Date, time and place for submittal deadline for the RFP Response and opening of bids: February 16, 2024 - County Offices at 501 Soldier Road, Fairfield, Idaho. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on that date. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. RFP respondents assume the risk of the methods of dispatch or delivery chosen.
- Proposal evaluation by the County Commissioners: February 16 - February 23, 2024
- Interviews, if requested by the County, with finalist firms on February 26, 2024
- Issuance of Notice of Intent to Award and Selection by the Board of County Commissioners: On or before February 29, 2024
- Contract finalized: March 13, 2024
- Selected firm(s) begins work the date the contract is fully executed.

## **XV. Scoring Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals**

- A. Proposals will be opened and reviewed. Evaluation of the proposals will be based on a competitive selection process, in which the evaluation of proposals will not be limited to price alone. The capability of the Respondent to satisfy the County requirements identified in the Scope of Work and experience of the Respondent in providing services of this type, size and scope will also be considered along with the firm fixed fee not to exceed price and other relevant factors. The award selection will be based upon consideration of a combination of factors to determine the offer deemed most advantageous and of best value to the County.

**THE RESPONDENT MUST SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE NETWORK. PARTIAL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

- B. The County reserves the right to reject any-and-all proposals. All qualifying proposals will be evaluated, and, at the County's discretion, an award to negotiate contracts will be made to the Vendor who demonstrates the best ability to meet the overall goals of the project, with particular emphasis on demonstrated ability to fulfill the Scope of Work successfully. The low bid is not the basis for awarding the contract(s). The County Commissioners will assess the qualifications of each Vendor submitting a proposal and rank the proposal. The evaluation committee will grade and score responsive proposals with the following criteria and weights: The competitive selection evaluation criteria are as follows:

<b>Ability to Meet the Requirements of the Services Outlined in the Scope of Work and RFP.</b> Familiarity with the project and the capability of the Vendor to design, construct, maintain and operate the Network (including but not limited to, experience and availability of vendor and specific project staff). <b>Ability to Meet the Requirements of the Services Outlined in the IDOC Contract, including but not limited to the rigorous and extensive ongoing State and Federal Filing and Audit Reporting Requirements</b>	25 Points
Pricing Model and Feasibility of Vendor Proposal	20 Points

The extent to which the Proposal meets the County's timeline, goals and objectives of the Network	15 Points
Experience of the Vendor	10 Points
Financial strength of the Vendor	10 Points
Quality and thoroughness of response	10 Points
References	10 Points
The acceptability of the contract terms and conditions proposed by the Vendor and the extent to which the proposal departs from the RFP and from the County's proposed commercial terms (if any). County reserves the right to refuse, change or add to any contract provisions during negotiations.	

## **XVI. Other Project Evaluation Criteria**

The County may contact and evaluate the Respondent's references; contact any Respondent to clarify any response; contact any current users of a Respondent's services; solicit information from any available source concerning any aspect of a proposal, and seek and review any other information deemed pertinent to the evaluation process. **As previously indicated, the County shall not be obligated to accept the lowest priced proposal, but instead shall make an award in the overall best interests of the County.**

If the County determines it to be necessary, it may then conduct interviews. This is a projected schedule for interviews and contract finalization, subject to change by the County. The County will notify proposers in advance of their scheduled interview date and time. If a Proposer is unable to attend their interview on the specified date: its proposal may be eliminated from further consideration. The interview may consist of a short presentation by the Proposer, after which the County may ask questions and request clarification related to any part of the Respondent's proposal and qualifications. At the conclusion of interviews, the evaluation Committee may find it necessary to re-score the proposals in light of information gained during the interviews.

## **XVII. Clarification of Proposals**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this RFP, the County reserves the right to:

- Conduct discussions with any or all potential vendors for the purpose of clarification of proposals;
- Waive, or decline to waive, any defect in any proposal;
- Accept, reject, or negotiate any or all proposals or the terms of any proposal, or any parts thereof;
- Cancel or amend this RFP or issue other requests for proposals;
- Select no proposals at all; or
- Use any and all concepts presented in any proposal.

## **XVIII. Negotiation and Execution of Contracts**

The selected Vendor agrees to execute a contract or contracts consistent with the terms of this RFP and proposal, as modified for the proposal specifics. If the parties are not able to reach agreement and execute a contract or contracts, the County may declare the award void and select another Vendor or issue a new RFP.

#### **XIX. Contract Award**

- A. Any reference to the word “bid” contained in this RFP shall mean “proposal”.
- B. *The County reserves the right to award a contract or contracts to a single Firm, to a Firm with team members or to make no award, whatever is in the best interest of the County.*
- C. The contract or contracts to be negotiated with the successful respondent will address, among other things, the length of the agreements, price, quality, payment, insurance, indemnification, open access network, service levels, and the design, construction, maintenance, operation and management of the Network. Those contracts, in substantially the form included with this RFP, are available on the County’s Website at [www.camascounty.id.gov](http://www.camascounty.id.gov), and will be subject to negotiation and finalization with the successful Respondent.

#### **XX. Use of Contractors and Subcontractors**

Respondents may use contractors and subcontractors to fulfill any obligations in connection with the project. Contractors and subcontractors shall comply with all requirements of this RFP, the proposal, IDOC Contract and applicable federal, state and local laws. A Respondent shall remain liable for fulfilling all its obligations on the project, and for any claims or damages arising from the contractor’s and subcontractor’s work.

#### **XXI. Other Requirements**

- A. **Dig Once Policy.** Respondent and its Contractors and Subcontractors and Personnel agree to comply with Idaho’s Dig Once Policy, as set forth in Chapter 5, Title 40, Idaho Code.
- B. **Authorization to Transact Business.** Respondent attests that it and its Contractors, Subcontractors, Affiliates, and if applicable, Personnel, are authorized or registered to transact business in the state of Idaho, to the extent required by Idaho law.
- C. **OSHA.** Respondent and its agents and representatives, including all Contractors, Subcontractors, Affiliates, and Personnel, agree to comply with all safety requirements under Idaho law and all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

#### **XXII. Errors and Omission in a Proposal**

The RFP Respondent is responsible for all errors and omissions in its proposal. If it discovers an error and wishes to withdraw its proposal, the Respondent should notify the County immediately.

### **XXIII. Acceptance of RFP/Proposal Content**

By submitting a proposal, the RFP Respondent certifies that it has read, understood, and agreed to all requirements, terms, and conditions in this RFP. An RFP Respondent may withdraw its proposal prior to the RFP response deadline

### **XXIV. Confidentiality of Proposals**

The County reserves the right to use any and all information submitted by, or obtained from, an interested party in any manner the County determines is appropriate including, but not limited to, the creation of a further competitive solicitation. An interested party should avoid including any business confidential and/or proprietary information in its response. However, if an interested party must submit such information, the information must be clearly marked accordingly, and the interested party must provide sufficient justification as to why such information is business confidential and/or proprietary. The County will review said information and safeguard it appropriately to the extent permitted by law.

### **XXV. Idaho Public Records Act**

Proposals are not to be marked in their entirety as confidential or proprietary. Proposals received will become the property of the County. All proposals, scoring, tabulations and subsequent contracts will be subject to public disclosure in accordance with the Idaho Public Records Act.

### **XXVI. Protest**

All objections or challenges regarding the solicitation process or award must be in accordance with Idaho law.

### **XXVII. Disclosure**

If a firm, business, or person submitting this bid proposal has been debarred, suspended, or otherwise lawfully precluded from participating in any public procurement activity, or if any such preclusion from participation from any public procurement activity is currently pending, the Respondent shall include an explanation in its proposal.

### **XXVIII. Miscellaneous Provisions**

- A. Proposal Costs and Expenses. The RFP Respondent is responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a proposal.
- B. Cost Proposal. The respondent shall itemize all costs associated with the project and shall include a total project cost including taxes and any related permit fees and other fees to complete all the requirements as defined in the Scope of Work.

- C. Fixed Price Proposal. The pricing shall be a firm fixed price and shall include all costs in accordance with all contract requirements, including but not limited to, labor, payroll taxes, fringe benefits, licenses and permits, insurance, workforce productivity, coordination, transportation, field overhead, general and administrative overhead, and profit. **The Pricing Proposal must be complete and address all components in the Scope of Work or the proposal will be deemed as non-responsive at the County's discretion.**
- D. Validity of Proposal. The Respondent's proposal shall be valid for 120 calendar days from the date stipulated in the RFP for receipt of proposals. If this offer is accepted within that time period, the Respondent agrees to furnish all services and items as stipulated in the RFP, the IDOC Contract and accompanying addenda and the negotiated contract(s).