



QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES
DETCOG RFP # 2024-02

Broadband Network Operator – North Newton County Network

Questions Received During Bidders Conference on June 21, 2024

Q1. Has DETCOG selected the CBRS technology/vendor to be used in this deployment?

Q2. Will this network most likely use LTE.

A1 & 2. The vendor has not been selected. The design is vendor and technology agnostic.

Q3. Can the bidders get a copy of all the shapefiles to do their own analysis? Expectation is these files will include all the Counties, towers, fiber routes, locations, etc.?

A3. Entrust will provide a list of the design files that will be sent to bidders that have returned a completed NDA.

Q4. Will the Network Terminate at a POP?

A4. The point of presence and/or point of interconnection will be identified in conjunction with the network operator. This may be a new location(s) to be built or existing location(s) from an operator. The Operator is responsible to provide the backhaul to the source provider.

Q5. Can the Operator co-lo on the same tower with same tower lease using a different frequency?

A5. It would be up to the Operator to negotiate a separate co-lo agreement with the tower owner for frequencies that are different than this project if additional equipment is required.

Q6. Can the Operator extend from DETCOG network to add to the network?

A6. This would be possible at a future date; however, the grant funded core network must be completed first before the network could be expanded. The Operator's build out of this network beyond the grant funded core network would be at Operator's cost and be owned by the Operator.

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Q7. Is the FWA deployment on CBRS GAA or PAL?

A7. It is designed to be GAA. It may be possible to convert to PAL but that is not part of the current grant funded project design.

Q8. Has DETCOG already procured (or is in the process of procuring) the FWA RAN and Core equipment?

A8. No equipment has been selected or procured. Procurement of equipment will be done with input from the network operator.

Q9. The 3GPP standards were identified in the high-level network overview. Is or can 5G be used?

A9. Yes, 5G is a 3GPP specification.

Q10. Will the physical deployment of the FWA equipment be the responsibility of the chosen Operator or the chosen equipment supplier?

A10. The contractor that is selected to construct the network (not the Network Operator) will be responsible for the physical deployment of equipment up until such time as the grant is closed out. After grant closeout, this responsibility will shift to the Network Operator for the future.

Q11. Are there any set goals for Pricing and Speeds?

A11. The goal is to achieve up to 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload speed. We expect pricing to be market driven; however, affordability is important. We note that pricing is a component that will be considered in RFP scoring. See Evaluation Criteria on pages 17-18 of the RFP and Attachment D on page 22.

Q12. After the RFP has been awarded, what is the general timeline on picking the technology and installation of Fiber Network? What is the go-live goal?

A12. The objective is to go live as soon as possible with a clear understanding this date is dependent on the award of the Construction RFP and the buildout.

Q13. Does that grant have a required implementation date?

A13. Construction and go-live should be completed by October 31, 2026, to ensure a typical 3-month close-out processes. The grant funding requires implementation by January 31, 2027.

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Questions received after 6/21/24:

Q14. Is DETCOG open to alternative RFP responses that may not build a fixed wireless access network, in order to account for the BEAD fiber overbuild?

A14. If the Operator has alternative methods to meet the needs of the scope of this project, we welcome your suggestions. However, the grant for which we have been approved was specifically awarded to construct a fixed wireless network.

Q15. Newton County was identified on the BDO call on June 25 as selected for BOOT 2 funding. How does this affect your FRP/Network?

A15. Our network is not affected. Rules of the BOOT II program have not been released at this time.

Q16. Would you consider a request for an extension to July 24th on responses deadline due to bidder unable to attend the bidder's conference on June 21st.

A16. The schedule was extended by one (1) week on June 21 as indicated on the amended RFP. No further extension will be granted. Responses are due by July 18, 2024 at 4:00 pm CDT.

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