

Office of State Procurement
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAY DARDENNE
COMMISSIONER OF
ADMINISTRATION

November 14, 2023

ADDENDUM NO. 01

Your reference is directed to RFx No. 3000021728 for the Invitation to Bid (ITB) for the Division of Administration (DOA) – Office of Technology Services (OTS) to furnish Ethernet Connections, which is currently scheduled to open at 10:00 a.m. (CT) on November 28, 2023.

The following changes are to be made to the referenced solicitation:

Bid Opening Date Now Reads: November 28, 2023 @ 10:00 AM (CT)

Bid Opening Date Changed to Read: December 5, 2023 @ 10:00AM (CT)

Section 2.2 – CALENDAR OF EVENTS, revised per the attached page 2.

Section 3.2.1– ROUTES – GROUP ONE, revised per the attached page 10.

Section 3.2.2 - ROUTES – GROUP TWO, revised per the attached page 11.

Section 3.2.4 – NETWORK INTERFACE, revised per the attached page 11.

Section 3.2.5 – PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS, revised per the attached page 11 and 12.

Section 5.4.1 – DETERMINATION OF SUCCESSFUL BIDDER, revised per the attached page 17.

The Vendor’s written inquiries received by the inquiry deadline date of October 24, 2023 and the State’s responses are included on the attached page numbers 3 – 5.

All else remains as on the original Invitation to Bid.

THIS ADDENDUM IS HEREBY OFFICIALLY MADE A PART OF THE REFERENCED SOLICITATION.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: If you have already submitted your bid and this Addendum does not cause you to revise your bid, you should acknowledge receipt of this Addendum by identifying your business name and by signing where indicated. You may return this Acknowledgement by mail, by hand delivery, or courier to: Office of State Procurement, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Claiborne Building- Ste. 2-160, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or by fax to: (225) 342- 9756. The State reserves the right to request a completed Acknowledgement at any time. Failure to execute an acknowledgement shall not relieve the bidder from complying with the terms of its bid.

Addendum Acknowledged/No changes:

For: _____ By: _____

REVISION: If you have already submitted your bid and this Addendum requires you to revise your bid, you must indicate any change(s) below, identify your business name and sign where shown. Revisions shall be delivered prior to bid opening by mail, by hand delivery or courier to: Office of State Procurement, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Claiborne Building- Ste. 2-160, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, and indicate the RFx number and the bid opening date and time on the outside of the envelope for proper identification, or by fax to: (225) 342-9756. Electronic transmissions other than by fax are not being accepted at this time.

Revisions received after bid opening shall not be considered and you shall be held to your original bid.

Revision:

For: _____ By: _____

By: Krystal Frank
State Procurement Analyst
Telephone No. 225-342-4672
Email: krystal.frank@la.gov

**Written Inquiries
ITB Ethernet Connections
Solicitation No. 300021728
File Number: T 92949**

Vendor's Inquiry #1:

Section 6.0, Contractual Terms and Conditions:

May Proposers submit exceptions to the RFP's terms and conditions, and/or provide supplemental terms and conditions for the State's consideration in order to align the final contract with the Proposer's solution?

State's Response #1:

The State will review/consider exceptions requested of the Bidder. However, the Bidder should note that some terms and conditions are non-negotiable and may result in the Bidder's response being deemed administratively or technically flawed.

Vendor's Inquiry #2:

Section 2.2 Calendar of Events:

Given the anticipated date for providing answers to Written Inquiries is only 9 business days before the scheduled Bid Submission deadline, and the Thanksgiving holidays fall during that time window, will the State of LA consider providing an extension to push back the Bid Submission Deadline to allow ample time for proposers to evaluate the state's responses to the written inquiries then finalize the solution and provide a quality response that fully aligns with the clarifications provided in the answers to written inquiries?

State's Response #2:

See revision to the Bid Opening Date and Section 2.2 Calendar of Events in this Addendum NO. 01.

Vendor's Inquiry #3:

Section 1.1 says "the State intends to make one (1), two (2), three (3), or four (4) awards on a per route basis." And, Section 5.2.2 states "Cost shall be the sole determining factor and shall carry a weight of 100%. And, Section 5.4.1 states "A recommendation for award may be made for the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder meeting all mandatory administrative and technical requirements of this bid."

Therefore, if the State makes multiple awards for a given route, will the State rank the awardees based on cost for the route provided in the RFP and give the 1st awardee right of first refusal before considering the 2nd or 3rd awardee?

State's Response #3:

No awardee will be designated as "primary" nor given the right of first refusal. See revision to Section 5.4.1 in this Addendum NO. 01.

Vendor's Inquiry #4:

Section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 states "The Bidder may choose to bid on any of the routes listed below, and Section 2 4.1.1 says "The Bidder shall quote one-time installation rate and monthly rate for all speeds for each route it chooses to bid."

Please confirm our understanding that these requirements mean a bidder does not have to bid on all routes and can select any combination of routes they want. However, for each route that is selected, the Bidder MUST provide a quote for all required bandwidths on that route.

State's Response #4:

That is correct. The Bidder may choose to bid any of the routes listed in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, however, the Bidder must quote one-time installation rate and monthly rate for all required speeds for each route it chooses to bid.

Vendor's Inquiry #5:

Section 3.2.4; Is the State asking for Diverse hand-off for a single circuit and/or Diverse routes/building entrance?

State's Response #5:

The State is not asking for diverse routes/building entrances for a single circuit. It is the State's intention in Section 3.2.4 that the contract provide the availability of multiple interface types such that a selection of one type that best meets the requirements for the handoff at the customer demarc point.

Vendor's Inquiry #6:

If either of the above are true, then the pricing pages have no options to provide circuit pricing without diversity options. Can the State update the pricing section to include pricing options with and without diversity?

State's Response #6:

The State is not asking for diversely routed entrances for single circuits.

Vendor's Inquiry #7:

100Base-FX is no longer universally available from most manufactures. Can the section be modified to allow for more flexibility instead of making these adaptor types mandatory?

State's Response #7:

See revision to Section 3.2.4 in this Addendum NO. 01.

Attachment A – Scope and Specifications

OTS Project Manager – may mean an employee of OTS, or an OTS-designated representative; i.e., an employee of another state agency other than OTS who has been assigned as project manager to a specific project.

Shall/Will/Must – denotes a mandatory requirement.

Should – denotes a desirable action.

State – the State of Louisiana.

2.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Release Bids and Blackout Period Begins:	<u>September 26, 2023</u>
Deadline to Receive Written Inquiries:	<u>October 24, 2023</u>
Deadline to Answer Written Inquiries:	<u>November 14, 2023</u>
Bid Opening Date and Time	December 05, 2023 <u>10:00 AM Central Time</u>
(Bid Submission Deadline):	

NOTE: The State of Louisiana reserves the right to revise this schedule. Revisions before the Bid Submission Deadline, if any, will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to this bid document. Revision after the Bid Submission Deadline, if any, will be by written notification to the eligible Bidders.

2.3 ITB INQUIRIES

The State shall not and cannot permit an open-ended inquiry period, as this creates an unwarranted delay in the procurement cycle and operations of our agency customers. The State reasonably expects and requires *responsible and interested Bidders* to conduct their in-depth bid review and submit inquiries in a timely manner.

An inquiry period is hereby firmly set for all interested Bidders to perform a detailed review of the bid documents and to submit any written inquiries relative thereto. *Without exception*, all inquiries MUST be submitted in writing by an authorized representative of the Bidder, clearly cross-referenced to the relevant solicitation section. All inquiries must be received by the Inquiry Deadline date set forth in Section 2.2 Calendar of Events of this ITB. Only those inquiries received by the established deadline shall be considered by the State. Inquiries received after the established deadline shall not be considered.

Inquiries concerning this solicitation shall be delivered to the State’s contact person, Krystal Frank, for this solicitation by mail, express courier, e-mail, or hand:

Office of State Procurement
Attention: Krystal Frank
1201 North Third St.
Claiborne Bldg., Suite 2-160
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

E-Mail: Krystal.Frank@la.gov
Phone: (225) 342-4672

3.2 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

3.2.1 ROUTES – GROUP ONE

The State is soliciting responses to provide dedicated full-duplex Ethernet circuits for the following routes at the following speeds:

10 Mbps, 100 Mbps, and 1000 Mbps.

The Bidder may choose to bid on any of the routes listed below.

The Bidder may offer additional speeds and rates other than those listed above for the following:

1. LSUHSC-Shreveport, 1501 Kings Hwy, Room G-112, Shreveport, LA 71103 **TO** Alexandria State Office Building, 900 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301
2. LSUHSC-Shreveport, 1501 Kings Hwy, Room G-112, Shreveport, LA 71103 **TO** McNeese State University, 700 E. McNeese St., Lake Charles, LA 70607
3. Department of Public Safety, 8001 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 **TO** Lallie Kemp Medical Center, 52579 Highway 51 South, Independence, LA 70443
4. Department of Public Safety, 8001 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 **TO** Center For Advanced Learning and Simulation, 2021 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70112
5. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) Traffic Management Center, 10 Veterans Memorial Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124 **TO** DOTD CSC, 1821 S. Alex Plaisance Blvd., Golden Meadow, LA 70357
6. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) Traffic Management Center, 10 Veterans Memorial Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, **TO** DOTD LA 1 Toll Bridge, 24173 LA 1, Leesville, LA 70357
7. State of Louisiana Information Services Building, 1800 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 **TO** Geographic Solutions, 2850 Interstate Dr., Lakeland, FL 33805
8. Department of Public Safety Data Processing Center, 8001 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 **TO** Geographic Solutions, 2850 Interstate Dr., Lakeland, FL 33805
9. LSUHSC Resource Building, 433 Bolivar St., Room 719, New Orleans, LA 70112 **TO** Dartpoint BTR1 Data Center, 7127 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806
10. LSUHSC Resource Building, 433 Bolivar St., Room 719, New Orleans, LA 70112 **TO** Dartpoint Data Center BTR2, 7139 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806
11. LSUHSC Resource Building, 433 Bolivar St., Room 719, New Orleans, LA 70112 **TO** LSUHSC-Shreveport, 1501 Kings Hwy, Room G-112, Shreveport, LA 71103
12. LSUHSC School of Dentistry, 1100 Florida Ave, Room 5312B, New Orleans, LA 70119 **TO** Department of Public Safety, 8001 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806

3.2.2 ROUTES – GROUP TWO

The State is soliciting responses to provide dedicated full-duplex Ethernet circuits for the following routes at the following speeds:

500Mb, 1Gb, 5Gb, and 10Gb.

The Bidder may choose to bid on any of the routes listed below.

The Bidder may offer additional speeds and rates other than those listed above for the following:

1. Information Services Building, 1800 N 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 **TO** Dartpoint Data Center, 601 Milam St., Shreveport, LA 71101
2. Information Services Building, 1800 N 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 **TO** LSUHSC Resource Building, 433 Bolivar St., Room 719, New Orleans, LA 70112
3. Information Services Building, 1800 N 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 **TO** University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), Stephens Hall, 201 St Mary St., Room 316, Lafayette, LA 70503
4. Department of Public Safety, 8001 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 **TO** Dartpoint Data Center, 601 Milam St., Shreveport, LA 71101
5. Department of Public Safety, 8001 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 **TO** LSUHSC Resource Building, 433 Bolivar St., Room 719m New Orleans, LA 70112
6. Department of Public Safety, 8001 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 **TO** ULL, Stephens Hall, 201 St Mary St., Room 316, Lafayette, LA 70503
7. Dartpoint Data Center, 601 Milam St., Shreveport, LA 71101 **TO** LSUHSC Resource Bldg., 433 Bolivar St., Room 719, New Orleans, LA 70112
8. Dartpoint Data Center, 601 Milam St., Shreveport, LA 71101 **TO** University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), Stephens Hall, 201 St Mary St., Room 316, Lafayette, LA 70503
9. ULL, Stephens Hall, 201 St Mary St., Room 316, Lafayette, LA 70503 **TO** LSUHSC Resource Building, 433 Bolivar St., Room 719, New Orleans, LA 70112

3.2.3 EQUIPMENT

The Contractor shall provide all equipment necessary to fulfill its contractual obligations.

3.2.4 NETWORK INTERFACE

The Bidder shall provide diverse customer network interface handoff capabilities as required by the State, including, but not necessarily limited to, 1000Base-LX, 1000Base-SX, ~~400Base-FX~~, 100Base-TX, 10GBase-SR, and 10GBase-LR.

3.2.5 PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS

~~As a minimum, the service shall meet the following performance parameters:~~

3.2.5.1 PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS GROUP ONE ROUTES

As a minimum, the service shall meet the following performance parameters:

- Availability of 99.99% or greater
- Packet loss of 0.1% or less
- Latency of 25 ms or less RTT
- Jitter of 4 ms or less

3.2.5.2 PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS GROUP TWO ROUTES

As a minimum, the service shall meet the following performance parameters:

- Availability of 99.99% or greater
- Packet loss of 0.1% or less
- Latency of 15 ms or less RTT
- Jitter of 4 ms or less

3.2.6 HELP DESK SERVICES

The Contractor shall provide twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year help desk services including, but not limited to, general technical assistance on customer ordering processing, customer trouble reporting, trouble ticket tracking, and other service related technical support.

All help desk services shall be based within the United States.

3.2.7 NETWORK MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Contractor shall provide twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year monitoring services including, but not limited to, service interruptions and network performances, availability, latency, packet loss, and jitter.

3.2.8 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONING PROCESSES

The Contractor shall provide processes to accommodate moves, service configuration changes, and order expedites which may be used by the State in the utilization of the resultant contract.

3.3 EQUIPMENT/SERVICE PROVISION REQUIREMENTS

3.3.1 DELIVERY

See Section 3.3.2.2, Implementation Plan, for delivery requirements.

3.3.2 IMPLEMENTATION

3.3.2.1 INTERFACE WITH COMMON CARRIER

The Contractor shall be responsible for all arrangements to interconnect the system proposed to the Common Carrier system and shall coordinate all such arrangements with the OTS Project Manager.

3.3.2.2 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of an OTS approved order, the Contractor shall prepare and submit to the OTS Project Manager for review and approval a service implementation schedule. The schedule shall include a milestone plan to show the orderly progression of events and cutover of the service, i.e., site survey, equipment delivery, installation of cable and equipment, notification to OTS confirming completion date, circuit testing, service cutover, circuit performance, delivery of documentation, and satisfactory service acceptance. The preceding shall be expressed as dates, not as increments of time.

shall furnish it within the State's stipulated deadline. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the bid response.

5.2 CRITERIA

5.2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE

All bid responses received as a result of this bid document shall be subject to review for the purposes of selecting a Bidder to whom a Contract shall be awarded. No information shall be given out concerning the ultimate outcome while consideration of the award is in progress.

The successful Bidder(s) shall meet all mandatory administrative and technical requirements.

5.2.2 SPECIFIC CRITERIA (WEIGHTED)

Cost. Cost shall be the sole determining factor and shall carry a weight of 100%.

5.2.3 SIMULTANEOUS REVIEW

The functions described in this section may be performed simultaneously or in any order. Once a determination is made that a bid response is non-compliant in any area, that bid response shall be disqualified from further consideration.

5.3 METHODOLOGY

5.3.1 MODEL

Cost shall be calculated by multiplying the unit price by the model quantities to obtain a total cost. The actual evaluation model shall be submitted to the Office of State Procurement prior to bid opening. This model shall become part of the file and shall be available to all Bidders after bid opening.

5.4 OTS RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

5.4.1 DETERMINATION OF SUCCESSFUL BIDDER

A recommendation for award may be made for the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder meeting all mandatory administrative and technical requirements of this Bid. OTS reserves the right to award up to an additional three (3) contracts to the second, third, and fourth lowest responsive, responsible bidders meeting all mandatory administrative and technical requirements of this bid

5.4.2 WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

When OTS has completed the evaluation and a successful Bidder(s) has been determined, a written recommendation for award shall be forwarded to the Office of State Procurement for review.

5.5 AWARD

Upon review and approval of OTS's recommendation for award, the Office of State Procurement (OSP) will issue a "Notice of Award" to the apparent successful Bidder(s).