

Instructions

This Response Template **must** be used for submission of written questions. All questions should provide the requested information. Those that do not, may not be answered by DIS. The Prospective Contractor may add as many lines as needed. DIS would strongly prefer multi-part questions as individual questions on separate lines.

Instructions: Complete all cells of each question asked in the Table below. Clearly identify the referenced section or text.

Question ID	IFB Reference (page number, section number, paragraph)	Specific IFB Language	Question	Response
1	General		Due to the nature of the IFB, will the State consider extending the bid opening date?	The State will not consider extending the bid opening date because of the E-rate window closing date.
2	Section SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE	Bid Opening Date: February 12, 2020	Question: Due to the Monday January 20th National Holiday and that clarifications to questions are anticipated by January 24th; will any consideration be given to extend the bid due date?	See response to Question 1.
3	Page 2, Section 1.2, Paragraph B	The anticipated starting date for any resulting contract is 07/01/2020, except that the actual contract start date may be adjusted unilaterally by the State for up to three calendar months.	Please clarify the purpose of this sentence. Does it have any other purpose beyond stating the time at which the contract becomes irrevocable?	The purpose of Section 1.2 is to ensure that a submitted bid will be honored if the contract start date is extended by up to three calendar months from the anticipated start date.
4	Page 4, Section 1.7.A.1.c.	One (1) original copy of the Official Bid Price Sheet.	Please confirm that DIS wants a printed, hard copy of the entire Official Bid Price Sheet.	Prospective Contractors must submit all Bid Submission Requirements under 1.7.A.1.
5	Page 11, Paragraph 2.2, section D and Page 12, Paragraph 2.4, section B	Section 2.2, paragraph D states that the State preferred network design is "school district hub to Contractor aggregation site, a State aggregation site, OR a State data center" (emphasis added). Section 2.4, paragraph B states that the Contractor must bid "from the school district hub to the Contractors aggregation location, then from the Contractor's aggregation location to a State aggregation site."	Contractor believes this is contradicting information. May Contractors only bid from Contractor aggregation site to the district hub for Table 2 responses? The aggregation site for the Contractor aggregation site may be miles (up to 100 miles) from the nearest State aggregation site. There is no nearby State aggregation site for Contractor to connect to (examples: Lee County, Ouachita County)	If a Prospective Contractor bids service to a school district hub he must be able to provide connectivity all the way to the State network. Figure C, State Aggregation Sites provide all locations where the Prospective Contractor can connect the State network.

6	Section 2.4 ETHERNET OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY CONNECTIVITY TO SCHOOL DISTRICT HUBS	D. If awarded multiple school district hub addresses, the Contractor must consolidate transport from multiple school district hubs on the connection between the Contractor aggregation location and the State aggregation site. The State's expectation is that individual aggregation circuits will be used for a combination of school, rural health, and State agency transport. The State can apportion the costs between federal programs (i.e. E-rate and Rural Health Care).	<p>In reference to the aggregation hub sites (essentially any addresses that belong to sites that are NOT clearly a k-12 School or library)</p> <p>In order to respond in accordance with program rules, CenturyLink will need answers to the following.</p> <p>1) Has the State obtained E-rate Entity numbers for these sites. If so, please provide a list of those entity numbers.</p> <p>2) If there are no entity numbers. Can the State please explain how these sites are eligible to receive funding?</p> <p>3) Or does E-rate funding not apply to this contract?</p>	State of Arkansas only applies for E-rate discounts for bandwidth/connectivity delivered to eligible recipients of service. Though the aggregation sites do not have BENs and are not listed on the State's applications, the cost for circuits are included and are considered to be eligible as they are providing bandwidth to eligible locations.
7	Page 11, Section 2.2, Paragraph F	To allow time for transition to the new contracts and awards, the State will need to extend the 2015 awards for 12 months.	<p>With an effective date of 7-1-2015, the 2015 awards expire on 6-30-2020.</p> <p>Paragraph F of section 2.2 however, seems to indicate that the 2015 awards will be extended until 6-30-2021. Is this the case, or is the intent to extend the 2015 contracts up until such time as the 2020 contracted services are up and working?</p> <p>Please clarify?</p>	The initial term for the current K12 bid awards from 2015 expire on 6-30-2020. There are two one year extensions available. We will exercise the first one year extension to allow time after 7-1-2020 to transition to the awards from this new bid.
8	Section 2.6 BACKBONE TRANSPORT (STATE AGGREGATION SITE TO STATE AGGREGATION SITE)	D. The backbone transport will be used to connect the aggregation sites to form a ring. Because of this usage the State needs diversity between any two backbone transport segments serving each individual site. We understand that diverse local loop fiber routes are not normally available. After the bid is awarded the State will order the bandwidth needed and will work with the Contractor to determine that their circuit design will provide as much diversity as is available.	Question: What transport technologies are allowed? Can Wave services be bid under Backbone Transport?	Wave services can be bid if they meet all of the IFB requirements.

9	Section 2.6 BACKBONE TRANSPORT (STATE AGGREGATION SITE TO STATE AGGREGATION SITE)	D. The backbone transport will be used to connect the aggregation sites to form a ring. Because of this usage the State needs diversity between any two backbone transport segments serving each individual site. We understand that diverse local loop fiber routes are not normally available. After the bid is awarded the State will order the bandwidth needed and will work with the Contractor to determine that their circuit design will provide as much diversity as is available.	Question: Please provide a description of the level of diversity required. Examples: Equipment Diversity, Path Diversity. Are there dual entrance for provider services at any location which we'd be able to bring the service into the building using the separate entrance? If so please provide per location options.	This IFB only addresses path diversity. The IFB is not asking for dual entrance or equipment diversity although those options could be bid in Tables 8 or 9 of the Official Bid Price Sheet.
10	Section 2.8 SERVICE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS	H. DIS prefers Layer 2 switched connectivity. Where a Contractor must provide Layer 3 services inside their network, the hand-offs to the State must be Layer 2	Question: Is layer 2 required for Backbone circuits or would Layer 1 (wavelength) be allowed at 1Gb, 10GB and 100GB?	The State can accept Layer 1 service for Backbone circuits.
11	Page 21, Section 2.14, Paragraph A	The Contractor shall deliver service within the periods shown in Figure E. below after receipt of the order (ARO).	What is the estimated ARO time frame?	DIS expects to place orders for bandwidth soon after awarding the contracts.
12	Page 21, Section 2.14, Paragraph A	The Contractor shall deliver service within the periods shown in Figure E. below after receipt of the order (ARO).	When does DIS expect to begin receiving billing for new contracted services relative to the ARO date?	The State can't pay for service that has not been received. DIS should not receive billing until after ordered service is installed.
13	Page 21, Section 2.14, Paragraph A	The Contractor shall deliver service within the periods shown in Figure E. below after receipt of the order (ARO).	Is there any scenario where DIS is asking for new services to be delivered prior to the new contract start date?	No.
14	Page 21, Section 2.14, Paragraph A, Figure E, Minor Build	Up to day 15 ARO	Under "Minor Build" the extension deadline is 15 days after ARO. Is this a typographic error and if so, how many days should it be.	The IFB expectation is valid. An example might be where the new service turns out to be an upgrade of service provided on the current K12 contract with the same contractor. It would then be possible for the order to be implemented by remote access to their equipment.

15	Section 2.17 AWARD CRITERIA	<p>2. Future new locations not bid</p> <p>The Contractor with the lowest average cost per Mbps of all Contractors for all locations who bid in that exchange will be given the first right of refusal to furnish service to the new location at the current prices quoted for the address where the Contractor was the lowest. Each subsequent low bidder will be given next right of refusal. If a Contractor cannot be obtained from the existing Contractor pool for that exchange, the State will then procure by the appropriate procurement vehicle based on the anticipated dollar amount.</p>	<p>To be given first right of refusal for new locations not on the bid is states “The Contractor with the lowest average cost per Mbps of all Contractors for all backbone locations will be given the first right of refusal to furnish service to the new location”. Does this mean that only vendors who bid all locations will qualify for first right of refusal?</p>	<p>The specific language comes from IF Section 2.17.A.2 that only applies to Ethernet transport only to Transport from School District Hub to State Aggregation Site as stated. Your question language relates only to IFB Section 2.17.C.2 which applies to Backbone Transport (Transport from State Aggregation Site to State Aggregation Site) as stated.</p>
16	Official Bid Price Sheet		<p>Would it be possilbe to get a version with the filter option unlocked?</p>	<p>No. The price sheets are locked except where contractor input is expected. This is to allow DIS to use a mechanical process to compare multiple Prospective Contractor's pricing without having to address individual modifications to the price sheets.</p>
17	Official Bid Price Sheets MAN Service Table 3	Column D - Street Address	<p>May the prospective contractor contact the school administration to determine access points and the location of the termination point within the facility?</p>	<p>Contractors contacting our schools would create considerable confusion and questions that they are not ready to answer. These contacts should be made after the bid is awarded and the State service orders issued.</p>
18	Section Official Bid Price Sheet	SD HUB Service Table 5	<p>Question: Can you please provide the latitude/longitude for the following: #1 358 HWY 174 N, HOPE, AR 71801?</p>	<p>Latitude:33.70568, Longitude:-93.55762</p>
19	Section Official Bid Price Sheet	SD HUB Service Table 5	<p>Question: Can you please provide latitude/longitude for this site. When trying to validate the address, it appear to actually be North not South. GILLETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 313 SOUTH SIXTH, GILLETT?</p>	<p>The address on the invoice from our current transport vendor shows GILLETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 313 SOUTH SIXTH, GILLETT. Latitude:34.11261 Longitude:-91.37088</p>
20	Section Official Bid Price Sheet	SD HUB Service Table 5	<p>Question: Can you please provide the latitude/longitude for this location FLIGHTLINE UPPER ACADEMY, LRAFB-BLDG 1030, JACKSONVILLE?</p>	<p>We do not have access to the latitude/longitude for the school.</p>