

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

AREON Dark Fiber IRU's

RFP No. 599020

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 - 11:00AM

The purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum for vendors to obtain clarification about the RFP prior to preparing their responses.

Participants:

Attending to represent AREON were David Merrifield and Elizabeth Mann. Only one supplier attended the meeting:

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
1. Cable South – Media3	Drew Cannon	dcannon@cablesouth.com

UofA Team: David Merrifield, Steven Fulkerson, Scott Ramoly

Procurement Coordinator: Whitney Smith, wesmith@uark.edu

Reminders / Clarifications

Be sure to sign all bid documents where required and submit with your proposal.

All participants of this meeting will have access to the transcript which will be posted to our [Hogbid website](#) and include the information from this Q&A forum. Any questions related to this RFP that are received after the distribution of this Transcript will be addressed via Q&A Addendum by 4/22/16 (as noted in the projected timetable).

VENDOR REGISTRATION: The University of Arkansas (UofA) has implemented a new eProcurement tool. In order to ensure that Purchase Orders and Remittance payments are handled appropriately, we need to verify that all vendor information is current and accurate. **Vendors should register through the following site to do business with the UofA:** <https://supplier.uark.edu/>. Access the website and complete the registration process. No additional paperwork is required. We will verify that the individual or legal business name and Tax Identification Number (TIN) that you provide matches what is on file with the IRS. If the information matches, your information will be added to the UofA vendor file, and orders can be placed and payments made. **Please note that NO orders or payments will be processed until the appropriate Vendor Identification Information has been received.** If you are not the person who handles this type of activity on behalf of your organization, please forward this information to the appropriate person.

ARKANSAS TECHNOLOGY ACCESS CLAUSE: As noted in the Standard Terms & Conditions Document for this RFP, found here <http://procurement.uark.edu/resources/documents/terms.pdf> (starting at the top of page

4), vendors are required to comply with this request by submission of a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) with their proposal.

Questions / Answers

The following questions were asked during the meeting.

Q: Please clarify on the Bid Price Sheet that the Z-endpoint for ROUTE7C is actually SPLICE7C and not SPLICE8C.

A: Yes, there is an error in the Bid Price Sheet, which has been corrected. The Z-endpoint for ROUTE7C is SPLICE7C.

Q: Can the route map(s) submitted with a proposal be a PDF of a Google Map or Google Earth map with the route lines marked rather than a detailed map?

A: Yes. Detailed scaled route maps are not a requirement for the RFP, although there should be sufficient detail in the provided map(s) to give the evaluation team an understanding of the route that the cable takes between the endpoints.

Q: Shall the vendor submit a sample contract, or does the University have a contract that it wants to use?

A: The vendor can submit its own contract, but all terms will be reviewed by legal counsel prior to signing. The University can provide a sample contract upon request. Vendors should be aware that their responses to the RFP are considered part of the legally binding agreement.

Q: On the Bid Price Sheet, is the Estimated Availability After Receipt of Order based on the date of issuance of the contract award?

A: Yes. This is the number of weeks that the vendor estimates that it will take for construction or other preparatory work to make the fiber available for AREON's use following the issuance of a signed contract and University of Arkansas purchase order.

Q: Can the vendor propose multiple options for a single fiber route in which one might be all aerial cable and the other all underground cable or some mix of the two?

A: Yes. The vendor can submit additional route options in the blank spaces at the bottom of the Bid Price Sheet. In the vendor's response to the RFP specifications sections, the vendor should be sure to provide the information requested for all routes and options proposed and to clearly identify which route or option the information applies to.