

Q&A Addendum #5

Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network ARE-ON Optical Equipment Refresh RFP 666832

This document provides question and answer information pertaining to the above captioned RFP.

REMINDER: It is the Respondent's responsibility to thoroughly examine and read the entire RFP document and any appendices and addenda to this RFP.

Posted February 23, 2018

CORRECTION! The Vendor Identification Information form that is linked in the Standard Terms & Conditions (Signature Sheets) form is incorrect. The correct link is as follows:
https://pcweb.uark.edu/imagenowforms/fs?form=AVCB_Vendor_Form

Question 50: What is the target date of deployment? This is to identify if the new vendor should propose currently released product or can near future releases be acceptable.

Answer: ARE-ON anticipates deployment to begin in June; however, due to the need to minimize down time during the implementation, the start date could be delayed. Section 5.2.1 states that the proposed system must be based on the vendor's currently announced products, which are by definition those products announced by the manufacturer prior to the RFP proposal deadline. The vendor must also ensure that all products are generally available and can be shipped to meet the timeframes for staging, configuration, and installation.

Question 51: It is mentioned that the selected vendor will replace the Adva RE chassis while the Adva R7 remains as it is. Based on the diagrams it appears that part of Adva R7s are ROADM sites.

[A] Does it mean the final network includes ROADMs mix from 2 different vendors?

[B] In some sites there are ROADMs of R7 and amplifiers of RE. Does that mean the ROADMs of R7 and AMPS of RE will be mixed in the same site?

Answers:

[A] The vendor is to propose a workable solution. See answer Question #12 in Q&A Addendum #2.

[B] These sites are currently mixed sites. The vendor is to propose a workable solution. See answer Question #12 in Q&A Addendum #2.



Question 52: Can you share the R7 ROADM parameters such as channel spacing (50Ghz, 100Ghz or Flexgrid), WSS location, OCM location etc?

Answer: We are currently using 100Ghz spacing for all ROADMS in the network. WSS's are located at each ROADM site with separate WSS cards facing each direction. The network diagrams in Appendix I show the location of all ROADM sites (see legend for color meanings). The Optical Channel Monitoring (OCM) function is integrated in the WSS cards in our current equipment.

Question 53: Can you share the specifications of the amplifiers from Adva R7 that will be reused for example the gain, saturation and Noise figures?

Answer: There are only two sites in the scope of this RFP that have FSP3000 R7 based amplifiers: Hope and Atlanta. These amplifiers are facing the span between these two sites. Both sites also have RAMAN amplifiers on this span. The EDFA gains are set as follows: Pre-Amplifier in Hope (23.5dB), Pre-Amplifier in Atlanta (20dB).

Question 54: Can you provide Power budget of existing network?

Answer: This information will be available during the detailed planning phase of implementation.

Question 55: Also will the existing 10G Adva waves run as Alien wave on the new vendor waves? If so can you share the OSNR numbers of the 10Gs?

Answer: The services shown as "Do not replace" in Appendix II and shown in Diagram 3 in Appendix I will either need to be supported as alien waves or the vendor must propose another method to support these services. Additional information will be available during the detailed planning phase with the winning vendor.

Question 56: Will all the Dispersion compensation modules be new (i.e not existing R7s)? If not please provide locations and specs of DCMs.

Answer: The two DCM modules on the span between Hope and Atlanta are optionally to be replaced or eliminated at the vendor's option based on the proposed solution. All other DCMs are the older fiber-based DCMs and will need replacing or elimination based on the vendor's solution. All current DCM values correspond to the distance between sites as shown in Appendix II tab labeled "Fiber Distances & Loss". See the answer to the last question in Q&A Addendum (#1) posted February 14, 2018 and the answer to Question #9 in Q&A Addendum #2.

Question 57: The following was posed as a single question in four parts.

- [A] In the base bom/quote do we need to quote the services mentioned in the "solid red" in Appendix I diagram 3.
- [B] And the additional services as separate bom?
- [C] Please clarify if we need to include services (that is, optics and modules) in "dotted black" and "dotted red" in the bom.
- [D] A thing to note is that there are no services displayed in "solid green" in the services distribution.

Answers:

[A] Yes.

[B] Additional services shown in Appendix I Diagram #4 should be priced on Appendix V (Bid Price Sheet Amended) on the tab labeled “Optional”. The additional services are described in Section 5.14.

[C] The vendor’s solution must support the continuation of all current services.

[D] Appendix II lists current services. The three 1G services from Monticello to Crossett have not yet been installed but will be needed.

Question 58: The optional 100G services mentioned in Appendix I – Diagram 4 are the clients 100G or 10G? or others?

Answer: The optional 100G services are to support 100G client side optics.

Question 59: In clause 5.5.1 it is mentioned that all DCM must be removed and all services must be 100G.

[A] In other clauses it is required to run the 10G and 100G wavelengths together, side by side.

[B] Should Day 1 cost be the driving factor for this? Please clarify.

Answers: Section 5.5.1 does not state all services must be 100G. It states that the proposed system must be optimized for 100G transport but must also support 10G wavelengths. See the answer to the last question in Q&A Addendum (#1) posted February 14, 2018 and the answer to Question #9 in Q&A Addendum #2.

[A] See the answer to Question #9 in Q&A Addendum #2.

[B] We are unsure what the question is asking. However, the specifications stand as the requirements that the vendor’s proposed system must meet. Cost is an evaluation factor that the vendor must consider in the competitive bidding process for the RFP.

Question 60: The attenuation values in fiber include margin? If no, what is the margin to consider?

Answer: The loss values in Appendix III are actual measured values or actual values derived from the current equipment optical receivers. The vendor may make its own consideration for margins as appropriate.

Question 61: In clause 5.5.18 the OSC in all links is a part of the new RFP? Including the passive filters? How is AREON planning to do the OSC? Should the new Vendor propose the filters? Or will they be existing?

Answer: Per Section 5.8.1 the vendor’s proposed system must include all equipment or components necessary to form an OSC, that is, a complete functional network management path for management of their equipment. See answer to Question #23 in Q&A Addendum #2.

Question 62: Is it possible to bid material only without installation?

Answer: No. The vendor’s proposed system shall meet all specifications within the RFP, including those described under Section 5.13 for project management and installation.



Question 63: I receive a notice of BID 666832 and am interested in submitting. However I am hoping you can help clarify if this will be going through the channel for a contractor to bid material and labor, or if this is bidding direct from distribution. We are happy to bring in our trusted contractor for this bid if needed.

Answer: Section 1.1 states that the RFP is to solicit proposals from qualified providers of DWDM optical networking equipment. Proposals are for a complete system, including the professional services outlined in Section 5.13, technical support and maintenance outlined in Section 5.11, and technical training outlined in Section 5.12. Section 1.15 explains that single and joint vendor proposals are acceptable, but that the bidder assumes prime contractor responsibility for not only the delivery and installation of the equipment, but also professional services, maintenance, support, and billing. The vendor of a successful proposal must provide these functions, but also ensure that ARE-ON can establish a good working relationship with the manufacturer for on-going network growth and services.

Note Regarding Questions from the RFP Pre-Proposal Meeting of February 22, 2018

As stated during the pre-proposal meeting held on February 22, 2018, written summaries of the responses to the questions posed at the meeting are being prepared and will be distributed as a new Q&A Addendum on the HOGBID website prior to March 1, 2018.