



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Investing in Resilient Infrastructure: Marine Survey, Cable Manufacturing, and Cable Installation Services for the Development of a Submarine Communications Cable System in Puerto Rico

Request for Proposals
(“RFP”)

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www.smartisland.pr.gov



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Request for Proposals

The Puerto Rico Broadband Program (“PRBP”, or “Program”), of the Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”), as defined hereunder in **Section 1.1** and **Section 1.2** of this Request for Proposals (“RFP”), respectively, issues this RFP to obtain proposals from qualified firms that can provide the PRBP and/or the Government of Puerto Rico (“Government”) the professional services defined in **Section 3** of this RFP (“Services”). This RFP seeks responses from Applicants capable of providing the Services and completing the related tasks required hereunder, while developing a productive relationship with the PRBP and other relevant stakeholders.

No Right to Contract or Commitment

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that such submission does not create or confer any right to a contract award, nor does it obligate the PRBP, the OMB, or the Government to enter into any agreement or to make any financial or other commitment of any kind, including, but not limited to, the reimbursement of any costs incurred in the preparation of a response and/or proposal. See **Section 6** of this RFP for further disclaimers and reservations of rights by the PRBP.

The PRBP and the Government expressly reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to reject any or all proposals received, to cancel this RFP in whole or in part, to negotiate with one or more Applicants, or to take any other action deemed in the best interest of the Government, without incurring any liability or obligation to any Applicant.

No contract shall be deemed to exist unless and until a formal written agreement has been executed by duly authorized representatives of the PRBP and the selected Applicant, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the Government. By submitting a proposal, each Applicant certifies that it fully understands, acknowledges, and accepts all the terms and conditions of this RFP, and any amendments thereto, without restriction.



1. Introduction

1.1 Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget

The OMB is an instrumentality of the Government, adjunct to the Governor of Puerto Rico's Office ("Governor"), created pursuant to Act No. 147-1980, as amended ("Organic Act"). The OMB was created to advise the Government on budgetary, programmatic, and administrative management matters, as well as fiscal matters related to its ministerial duties, among other things.

Pursuant to the Organic Act, the OMB has several powers, such as those related to (i) the Government's budget formulation; (ii) said budget's administration, execution, and controls; (iii) evaluation of managerial and programmatic analysis; and (iv) operational, managerial, or administrative audits. Furthermore, Article 2(b) of the Organic Act empowers the OMB's Executive Director to contract professional, technical, consulting, auditing, and other services deemed necessary for the execution of the OMB's ministerial duties.

1.2 Puerto Rico Broadband Program

On July 11, 2022, the Governor issued Executive Order No. OE-2022-040 ("Executive Order"), creating the PRBP. The PRBP was created in response to Puerto Rico's need for resilient, equitably distributed broadband infrastructure and the social support required to access it knowledgeably and safely. Under the Executive Order, the Governor appointed the OMB as the overseeing agency of the PRBP. The OMB provides administrative and operational resources to support and enhance the PRBP initiatives, which involve coordinating the disbursement of local and federal funds allocated to Puerto Rico for the construction of broadband infrastructure on the island.

1.3 PRBP's Objective's

Currently in Puerto Rico, the digital divide persists. Certain areas have limited or no access to high-speed internet connectivity. The PRBP is working to bridge the digital divide and ensure widespread availability of broadband services for all. The overall objective of the PRBP is to foster digital equity ensuring that all citizens have equal opportunities to internet access and can benefit from digital resources. This objective will be met through the deployment of broadband infrastructure projects and digital equity programs over the next five years. The Program's projects emphasize the importance of not just enhancing connectivity, but also providing skill-building opportunities to every citizen for the effective use of digital resources.

The PRBP has defined four pillars that align with this objective:

- **Connectivity** – Connectivity for all residential, commercial, and governmental structures in Puerto Rico, so that every resident on the island has access to high-speed internet through the proper infrastructure.
- **Quality** – Quality and speed in connectivity reaching citizens' homes, businesses, or offices, ensuring a recurring minimum capacity of 100 Mbps/20 Mbps.



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- **Accessibility** – Accessibility for citizens to obtain high-speed internet reliably and at an affordable price.
- **Knowledge** – Basic knowledge so that every citizen can use the necessary technological equipment to connect to high-speed internet, whether for connecting with the government, school, healthcare providers, and/or work.

1.4 Broadband Funding in Puerto Rico

The PRBP draws on both local and federal funds to support projects that accelerate broadband infrastructure development and increase broadband access and connectivity on the island of Puerto Rico. Among the program's sources of funding, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's ("Treasury") Capital Projects Fund ("CPF") represents one critical funding stream for the PRBP's infrastructure focused projects.¹ The CPF is a federal funding program established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-2 ("ARPA") to provide support to states, territories, and freely associated states respond to the economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CPF provides grants to states, territories, and freely associated states for capital and infrastructure projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options.² Eligible projects include broadband infrastructure that will expand access to affordable, reliable, high-quality broadband internet to locations that lack access to adequate service necessary for full participation in school, healthcare, employment, social services, government programs, and civic life.

On September 6, 2023, Treasury allocated \$158 million in CPF funding to Puerto Rico. The PRBP has invested a portion of this funding (\$85.7 million) to establish the Puerto Rico Submarine Cable Resiliency Program ("SCRP"), described in **Section 1.5**.

In parallel, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico ("FOMB") established the Puerto Rico Broadband Infrastructure Fund ("PRBIF"). The purpose of the PRBIF is to compliment federal funding programs to support broadband expansion efforts and overcome barriers to broadband access. The total allocated budget to the PRBIF is \$400m; it is anticipated that a portion of the PRBIF will be used to supplement CPF funding for the SCR.P.³

1.5 Puerto Rico Submarine Cable Resiliency Program

The Puerto Rico SCR.P seeks to improve the reliability of high-speed internet in Puerto Rico by enhancing the resilience and redundancy of the island's submarine cable system. The program plans to invest in new cable segments, cable landing stations, and other auxiliary cable system infrastructure (e.g., carrier neutral exchanges, data centers) that

¹ In addition to the CPF, the Government ("Government") has made available a variety of local and federal funding to date to support broadband infrastructure development and access on the island. Sources of funding include the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment ("BEAD") Program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's ("HUD") Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation Funds ("CDBG-MIT"), and the locally funded Puerto Rico Broadband Infrastructure Fund. These funding opportunities support a portfolio of projects that complement the work being funded by the Commonwealth's CPF allocation (e.g., [the utilization of BEAD funds to develop a resilient open access underground conduit system](#)). Visit the PRBP website www.smartisland.pr.gov to learn more about these initiatives.

² For more Information on the Capital Projects Fund, see the U.S. Department of the Treasury's [Guidance For The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund](#).

³ Visit the PRBP website www.smartisland.pr.gov to learn more about the PRBIF.



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would increase the geographical diversity of the island's current subsea cable system, currently concentrated in the north of the island in and around San Juan.

Through these investments, the SCRP will mitigate the current risks faced by Puerto Rico's submarine cable system given the current concentration of assets on the north side of the island. In addition, the capital investments precipitated through this program are intended to drive economic development in Puerto Rico. The SCRP is expected to bring about more reliable digital connectivity on the island, improving Puerto Rico's attractiveness as a place to live and to conduct business.

1.6 Desktop Study

The PRBP has already commissioned a Desktop Study ("DTS") to evaluate potential submarine cable landing sites across Puerto Rico, identify feasible subsea routes, determine terrestrial interconnection points, and develop preliminary cost estimates, permitting requirements, and engineering considerations.

This DTS is being executed under separate funding and contractual arrangements and is not part of the scope of this RFP. Applicants shall not include a DTS within their proposed scope or schedule. Instead, Applicants are expected to incorporate the findings of the DTS (once finalized and shared by the PRBP) into their technical and implementation approach.

2. Description of the Procurement Process

2.1 Purpose of the RFP

This RFP seeks qualified Applicants to provide services for the subsea portion of the SCRP. **Section 3** outlines the scope of work in detail, which is divided into three main service categories:

- Marine Survey – route survey, geotechnical and geophysical studies, subsea archeological study, and environmental data collection necessary for the design and permitting of subsea cable routes.
- Cable Manufacturing – design, engineering, and production of subsea fiber optic cables, including branching units and other system components.
- Cable Installation – provision of installation vessels, shore-end works, laying, burial, and testing of subsea cable systems.

Applicants may submit proposals covering one, multiple, or all three service categories. The OMB, through the PRBP, retains full discretion to award a single contract covering all services (turnkey) or to award multiple contracts to different Applicants for each service component. Each category must be presented within the proposal in such a way that it can be evaluated individually, but bundled services can be priced as well within the proposal.

This RFP ensures that the subsea infrastructure elements of the SCRP are procured competitively, transparently, and in alignment with program objectives to strengthen Puerto Rico's connectivity, resiliency, and economic development.



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The selected Applicant(s) under this RFP shall:

- Work with the PRBP and any other personnel on all matters that may arise in connection with the terms of this RFP and/or the contract that could be awarded pursuant to this RFP (“Agreement”).
- Assume sole responsibility for the complete effort required to provide the Services, as defined in **Section 3** of this RFP.
- Refrain from assigning, transferring, conveying, or otherwise disposing of the Agreement, or its rights, titles, or interest therein, or its power to execute such Agreement, to any other person, firm, partnership, company, or corporation without the prior consent and approval in writing of the PRBP.
- Comply with applicable federal, state, local, and foreign laws and regulations governing projects initiated or supported by the Government and/or the U.S. Government.

2.2 The Contracting Executive Order

On April 27, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order No. OE-2021-029 (“Contracting Executive Order”), which requires Puerto Rico’s public agencies, instrumentalities, public corporations, and component units, to perform an open, competitive, and public contracting process for contracts with a value above TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000), including any amendments thereto, during the same fiscal year. This requirement applies to contracts funded completely or partially funded with federal funds if this requirement is not inconsistent with applicable federal regulations.

Thereafter, on June 7, 2021, the OMB issued Circular Letter No. 013-2021, establishing uniform guidelines to comply with the Contracting Executive Order.

2.3 Schedule of Key Dates

A summary schedule of the major activities associated with the RFP process is presented below. Please note that the evaluation period and notice of award dates are subject to change from the schedule below. In such a case, Applicants shall be notified to their email of record, subject to the PRBP disclaimers and reservation of rights indicated in **Section 6** of this RFP.



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RFP Timeline		
Event	Date	Time (AST)
RFP Published on www.smartisland.pr.gov	September 17 th , 2025	4:30 PM
Deadline to Submit Questions via email at faq@smartisland.pr.gov	September 24 th , 2025	4:30 PM
Responses to Questions Posted on www.smartisland.pr.gov	September 26 th , 2025	4:30 PM
Deadline to Submit Proposals via www.smartisland.pr.gov *	October 2 nd , 2025	4:30 PM
Evaluations	October 3 rd , 2025– October 7 th , 2025	N/A
Notice of Award and/or Intent to Proceed (ITP)	October 9 th , 2025	4:30 PM

*Please submit one (1) electronic copy through this RFP's posting page on www.smartisland.pr.gov.

2.4 RFP Questions and Answers

The PRBP is committed to a fair, open process for interested parties to receive information about the competitive solicitation process. Official responses to all questions and communications concerning this procurement process must be directed in writing to the PRBP, via electronic form using the following email address and subject line:

FAQ@smartisland.pr.gov

[Subject Line: RFP Submarine Cable Dry Plant EPC Services](#)

The PRBP will not respond to verbal inquiries or emails sent to addresses not specified in this RFP. Questions must be submitted by the deadline specified in **Section 2.3**. Answers will be provided within five (5) business days of the submission deadline. The PRBP reserves the right to extend this deadline based on the volume and timing of questions. For each question, the PRBP will determine whether a response is appropriate or necessary, subject to the disclaimers and reservation of rights included in **Section 6** of this RFP. Answers will be posted on www.smartisland.pr.gov. All information posted is deemed incorporated into this RFP.

Communications by prospective Applicants with officials and/or representatives of the PRBP, OMB, the Government and any of its instrumentalities, or any other parties associated with the PRBP regarding the contents of this RFP or its qualification and selection process, are prohibited during the submission and selection processes. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in the disqualification of submitted applications.

Furthermore, Applicants are hereby advised that from the date this RFP is published until a final determination is issued by the PRBP (i.e., Notice of Award, or equivalent notice, as indicated in **Section 2.3** of this RFP), Applicants, and their agents or representatives, are prohibited from communicating with any employee of the PRBP 'involved' in any step of this procurement process, including the PRBP's contractors (the "Blackout Period"). For



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purposes of the Blackout Period, the term ‘involved’ includes, but is not limited to, project management, design, development, implementation, procurement management, specifications development, and proposal evaluation.

In the event an Applicant is also a current PRBP contractor, communications between PRBP employees and the Applicant shall be limited strictly to matters related to their existing contract and duties. Under no circumstances may the PRBP employees or contractors discuss this RFP or corresponding procurement process or status.

Any Applicant who breaches the Blackout Period may be excluded from this procurement process and held liable to the PRBP for damages or any other remedy available under law, including, but not limited to a ban in participating in any procurements issued by the Government, or any of its component units, for a period of ten (10) years, if it is determined that such action results in violation of the Anticorruption Code for a New Puerto Rico, Act No. 2-2018, as amended, and other relevant or incidental regulations.

2.5 RFP Amendments

The PRBP reserves the right to amend the RFP at any time prior to the submission deadline defined in **Section 2.3** of this RFP. All RFP amendments will be posted on www.smartisland.pr.gov. Applicants are solely responsible for checking this website for any modifications to the RFP. The PRBP reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time for any reason at no cost to the PRBP. Any costs incurred by Applicants in preparing or submitting a proposal shall be the sole responsibility of the Applicant.

2.6 Proposal Submission

Applicants must submit their proposals electronically through this RFP’s posting page on the Smart Island portal, www.smartisland.pr.gov, no later than the proposal deadline specified in **Section 2.3**. Submissions shall consist of a single PDF file not exceeding 10 MB and must include all required exhibits, appendices, and/or attachments in order to be deemed complete. Each proposal must designate a single point of contact for all RFP-related correspondence, including email and telephone number.

Applicants experiencing technical issues with the submission process shall promptly notify the PRBP by email at faq@smartisland.pr.gov to obtain alternate submission instructions.

Any proposal submitted after the deadline specified in **Section 2.3** shall be deemed late, and will be automatically rejected. Such proposals may be returned to the Applicant, subject to the disclaimers and reservations of rights set forth in **Section 6** of this RFP. The PRBP assumes no responsibility for late submissions, attempted deliveries outside of the specified timeframes, or delays resulting from the delivery method selected by the Applicant.

2.7 Conflicts of Interest

The selected Applicant(s) under this RFP will be required to be free of any real or perceived conflict of interest as defined herein and/or under the applicable laws and



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regulations of the Government and/or those issued by the United States Federal Government, its agencies, instrumentalities and/or component units ("U.S. Government"), to the extent applicable.

By submitting their respective proposals, Applicants acknowledge that in the event they are selected under this RFP, potential services rendered thereunder are to be provided exhibiting complete loyalty towards the PRBP, including, but not limited to, having no adverse interest to the PRBP.

Consequently, as part of the contracting process, selected Applicant(s) shall certify that they are not currently aware of any relationship that would create a conflict of interest with the PRBP, or those parties in interest, according to the applicable Government's contracting requirements. Furthermore, Applicants must ensure that all actions related to their proposal are consistent with the PRBP and the U.S. Government Guidelines for the Evaluation of Conflicts of Interest and Unfair Advantages in the Procurement of Contracts, and other applicable ethics regulations.



3. Statement of Work

3.1 Background and Overview

Since the devastating impact of Hurricane María in 2017, the Government has prioritized strengthening the island’s critical infrastructure. Enhancing the resiliency of the Puerto Rico’s submarine cable system has been a central focus of the PRBP’s efforts under the SCRP, as described in **Section 1.5** of this RFP.

As part of this effort, the PRBP requested a DTS in December 2024 to identify the combination of submarine cable routes and terrestrial landing facilities that would make the cable network more resilient. The DTS is currently identifying submarine cable routes, branching units, and marine configurations, as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

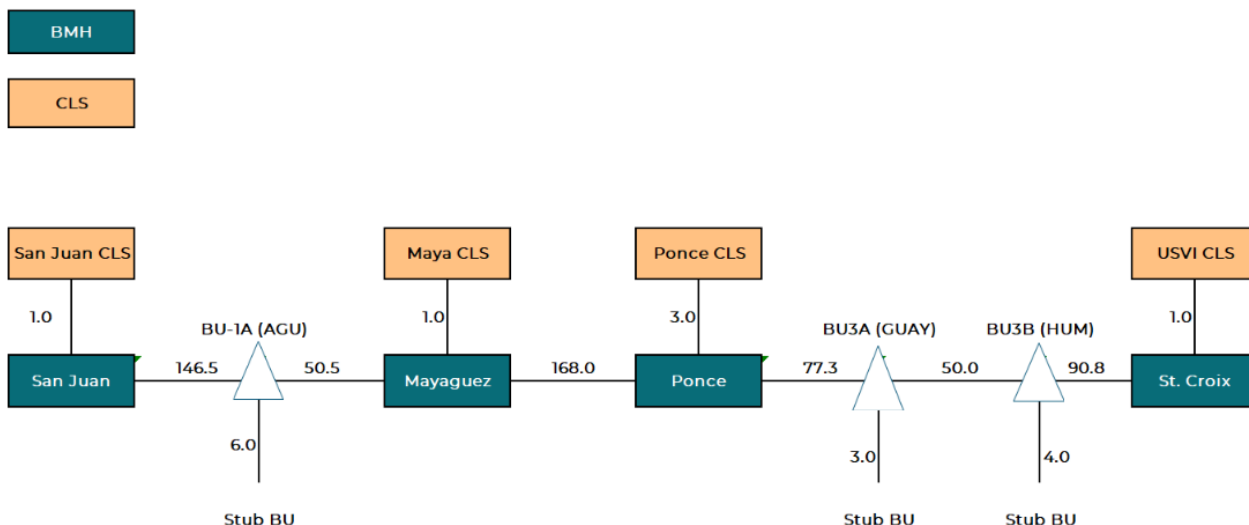


Figure 1. Potential cable "ring" route segments and landing stations

Landing Station	Location	Description	Coordinates	Configuration
A	San Juan	Existing Facilities	18.441991°N 66.021553°W	Base
C	Ponce	Tier I – II Compliant CLS	17.983806°N 66.667102°W	Base
D	Mayagüez	Tier I – II Compliant CLS	18.218690°N 67.148925°W	Base
G	St. Croix	Existing Facilities	Pending Confirmation	Base



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Cable Segment	Description	Estimated Mileage
1	Mayagüez – San Juan	197 km
2	Peñuelas – Mayagüez	168 km
3	Ponce – Saint Croix	218 km
Options		
1-A	Branching Unit – BU1A	6 km
3-A	Branching Unit – BU3A	3 km
3-B	Branching Unit – BU3B	4 km

This RFP focuses on what is referred to as the **“wet plant,”** which includes all subsea components required for the construction and operation of the submarine cable system (i.e., marine surveys, subsea cable manufacturing, branching units, and cable installation including shore-end works and horizontal directional drilling). The “dry plant” component, which includes land-based facilities such as cable landing stations and terrestrial outside plant, is excluded from the scope of this RFP, although coordination between the two scopes will be necessary to ensure overall project success.

The subsea scope will include, but is not limited to, the following components:

Marine Surveys:

- Geophysical and geotechnical surveys to determine seabed conditions, bathymetry, and potential hazards.
- Environmental and archeological baseline submarine studies and collection of permitting-related data.



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- Route engineering and design charts, including GIS deliverables, to support cable manufacturing and installation.
- Identification of suitable branching unit (BU) locations and shore approaches.

Cable Manufacturing:

- Engineering and design of submarine fiber optic cables tailored to route specifications.
- Manufacturing of main trunk and branching unit segments if optioned to enable multiple landings and diverse connections.
- Integration of repeaters, power feed equipment interfaces, and testing elements as required.
- Factory acceptance testing (FAT) of cables, branching units, and accessories prior to shipment.
- Provision of warranty, spare cable length, and emergency repair stock.

Cable Installation:

- Mobilization of cable installation vessels and specialized marine equipment.
- Pre-lay grapnel runs, route clearance, and seabed preparation.
- Laying and burial of the subsea cable along engineered routes, including slope crossings and rocky areas.
- Shore-end works, including pulling cables into beach manholes or conduits, jointing, and sealing.
- Installation of branching units, cable joints, and other subsea components.
- Post-lay inspection, burial verification, and commissioning tests to ensure continuity and compliance with technical standards.

In addition to the base proposal for the subsea scope (Marine Survey, Cable Manufacturing, and Cable Installation), Applicants may also submit an optional proposal for a front haul solution, Horizontal Directional Drilling ("HDD") at shore ends, and Beach Manhole design and construction as further described in Section 3.2.3 of this RFP.

- Any optional front haul proposal shall be submitted in a standalone appendix, separate from the base technical and cost submissions.
- Pricing of Options will not affect the evaluation of the base subsea scope. It will be considered independently at the sole discretion of PRBP.



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Program Responsibility Matrix

Engineering	Supplier	OMB
Desktop Study (including route engineering & design)		X
Acceptance of cable route design		X
Route Survey	X	
Final Route Engineering		X
Route Survey – Acceptance		X
Transmission/System Design & Engineering	X	
Manufacturing, Installation and Testing	Supplier	OMB
Cable Landing Station (CLS) Design, Permitting and Construction		X
Front-haul (BMH-CLS) Duct Route Design, Permitting and Construction		X
Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)	X	
Beach Manhole (BMH) Construction where required	X	
Land Cable (BMH-CLS) Procurement and Installation	X	
Wet Plant Procurement	X	
Dry Plant (open cable) Procurement	X	
Marine Installation (including shore ends)	X	
Wet Plant Testing	X	
Dry Plant Installation	X	
Marine Installation/Vessel Operational Permits	X	
Regulatory (e.g., USACE) & Proprietary to include Environmental (e.g., Permits-in-Principle)	X	
Cable Landing and System Operating License		X
Commissioning and Acceptance	Supplier	OMB
System Testing	X	
Purchaser Testing Responsibilities		X
Training	X	
Documentation	X	
Engineering	Supplier	OMB
Desktop Study (including route engineering & design)		X
Acceptance of cable route design		X
Route Survey	X	
Final Route Engineering		X
Route Survey – Acceptance		X
Transmission/System Design & Engineering	X	
Manufacturing, Installation and Testing	Supplier	OMB



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Cable Landing Station (CLS) Design, Permitting and Construction		X
Front-haul (BMH-CLS) Duct Route Design, Permitting and Construction		X
Front-haul (BMH-CLS) connectivity from the subsea landing point to designated inland interconnection facilities	Optional Component	
Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)	Optional Component	
Beach Manhole (BMH) Construction where required	Optional Component	
Land Cable (BMH-CLS) Procurement and Installation	X	
Wet Plant Procurement	X	
Marine Installation (including shore ends)	X	
Wet Plant Testing	X	
Marine Installation/Vessel Operational Permits	X	
Marine Survey Permits and Marine Vessel Navigational Permits	X	
Cable Landing and System Operating License		X
Commissioning and Acceptance	Supplier	OMB
System Testing	X	
Purchaser Testing Responsibilities		X
Training	X	
Documentation	X	



Program Schedule

The implementation of the subsea cable infrastructure under the SCRP will follow a structured, milestone-driven schedule designed to ensure timely delivery, regulatory compliance, and operational readiness.

Applicants may submit proposals for one, multiple, or all subsea service components (Marine Survey, Cable Manufacturing, Cable Installation). The PRBP retains full discretion to award a single turnkey provider or to award multiple providers for individual components. Where multiple Applicants are selected, the PRBP will coordinate the overall program schedule to ensure integration and timely delivery.

Based on responses to this RFP, the PRBP may also consider issuing an **Intent to Proceed (ITP)** agreement to secure the early mobilization of survey operations, allocation of factory slots, and vessel scheduling.

Schedules submitted must address the following requirements, depending on the service category covered in the proposal:

- Marine Survey
 - PRBP will consider providers that present schedules ensuring **completion of surveys and delivery of final reporting by Q4 2025 or Q1 2026 (calendar year).**
- Cable Manufacture
 - PRBP will consider suppliers that present schedules ensuring a **system ready-to-load (RTL) date by Q3 or early Q4 2026 (calendar year), inclusive of all required factory acceptance testing (FAT).**
- Cable Installation
 - PRBP will consider providers that present schedules guaranteeing a system **ready-for-service (RFS) date by December 31, 2026, with testing periods of at least 30 days and a final splice completed no later than December 1, 2026.**
 - Providers may also present additional schedules ensuring a system **ready-for-service (RFS) date which extends into 2027,** however it must be properly justified and they must identify the assumptions for why this schedule would be applicable.
 - Any optional components included should not extend or otherwise delay the required base scope timelines



3.2 Scope of Work

The PRBP is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide services for the subsea components of the submarine cable system under the SCRP. The project covers three main service categories: **Marine Survey, Cable Manufacturing, and Cable Installation.**

Applicants may submit proposals for one, multiple, or all categories. The PRBP retains discretion to award a single turnkey contract or multiple contracts for individual components.

The Scope of Work under this RFP does not include the performance of a DTS. The PRBP has already contracted this effort to define potential cable landing sites, subsea routes, and terrestrial interconnection points, and to provide preliminary engineering and permitting assessments.

Applicants are expected to utilize the DTS outputs provided by the PRBP as the basis for their proposed Marine Survey, Cable Manufacturing, and Cable Installation activities. Proposals must therefore exclude any DTS tasks and should demonstrate how the DTS findings will be incorporated to ensure efficient execution and accelerated timelines.

3.2.1 Marine Survey

Applicants shall provide survey services to define seabed conditions and environmental baselines required for cable route engineering and permitting. Activities include:

- Mobilization of suitable survey vessels and crews.
- Execution of geophysical and geotechnical investigations, including bathymetric mapping, sub-bottom profiling, soil sampling, and archeological evaluation.
- Collection of environmental and regulatory baseline data for subsea permitting.
- Identification of hazards, sensitive areas, and optimal burial depths.
- Preparation of GIS deliverables, engineering charts, and final survey reports.

The Applicant shall be responsible for securing the **marine survey permit(s)** necessary to carry out these operations.

3.2.2 Cable Manufacturing

Applicants shall design, manufacture, and deliver subsea fiber optic cable systems in accordance with international standards. Activities include:

- Finalization of design specifications based on approved survey data.
- Manufacturing of cable segments, repeaters, branching units, and accessories.
- Factory acceptance testing (“**FAT**”) and quality assurance of all components.
- Preparation of cable drums, spares, and emergency repair stock.
- Packaging, storage, and logistics planning to ensure delivery to staging ports.



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Applicants must identify any permitting or regulatory requirements (e.g., export controls, hazardous material transport) that could impact manufacturing or delivery schedules.

3.2.3 Cable Installation

Applicants shall provide end-to-end cable installation services, including mobilization of vessels, deployment, and system integration. Activities may include:

- Pick-Up and/or loading of submarine fiber optic cable into installation vessel
- Mobilization of cable installation vessels and marine equipment.
- Pre-lay grapnel runs, clearance, and seabed preparation.
- Laying and burial of subsea cable segments according to engineering design.
- Shore-end works, including pulling, jointing, and sealing of cables.
- Installation of any applicable branching units, splices, and terminations.
- Post-lay inspection, burial verification, and optical/electrical testing.

Optional Component:

If Applicants have the technical and operational capacity, they are invited to provide the following optional components in their proposals, which must be presented as **separate technical and cost components**, independent from the base subsea installation scope:

- **Front Haul:** Connectivity from the subsea landing point to designated inland interconnection points.
- **Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD):** Implementation of HDD works for cable landings, where technically feasible.
- **Beach Manhole (BMH):** Design and construction of beach manhole facilities to support secure cable transition from subsea to terrestrial segments.

The PRBP will evaluate these optional components at its sole discretion. Optional proposals will not affect the evaluation of the base subsea installation scope, and the PRBP reserves the right **not to move forward** with any optional component.

While the PRBP will coordinate the broader permitting framework, Applicants must identify **any key permits or authorizations** (e.g., vessel navigation clearances, dredging approvals, or HDD-specific requirements) that should be managed by them or that could affect their proposed scope.

3.2.4 System Testing and Commissioning

Applicants for Cable Installation shall conduct all necessary testing and commissioning to validate system performance. Activities include:

- Electrical and optical testing of installed segments.
- Verification of burial depths and mechanical protection.
- Post-lay inspection and reporting.
- Preparation of commissioning documentation and support for client acceptance.



3.2.5 Project Management and Reporting

Applicants shall maintain strong project management and reporting practices, including (will vary depending on services to be provided):

- Development of a detailed execution plan for their contracted scope.
- Coordination with the PRBP and other awarded providers to ensure integration.
- Risk identification and mitigation strategies.
- Submission of monthly progress reports, FAT reports, survey reports, and/or installation activity logs.
- Maintenance of a document repository for all project records.

4. Proposal Requirements

4.1 General Proposal Requirements

This section provides guidance for the submission requirements of this RFP, subject to the disclosures and reservation of rights indicated in **Section 6** of this RFP. The PRBP expects proposals submitted under this RFP to provide enough information about the requested services to allow the PRBP to evaluate, competitively rank, and choose an Applicant based on the Evaluation Criteria indicated in **Section 5** of this RFP.

4.2 Proposal Format Requirements

Proposals shall have all pages numbered consecutively within each section of the proposal and must conform to the page limitations identified in this RFP. Proposals must be presented in Arial (not Arial Narrow), 12-point font, including in diagrams, organizational charts, and other such graphics. Standard corporate brochures, awards and marketing materials shall not be included in the Proposal, and the PRBP does not commit to review any materials included in a proposal that are not specifically required by the RFP.

All correspondence, documents, and related information submitted by the Applicants as a result of this RFP should be written in English. If documents are submitted in a language other than English, a full English translation should be provided.

4.3 Technical Proposal

Applicants should include the following information in their technical proposal, organized in the specified sections.

4.3.1 Executive Summary

Proposals submitted by Applicants should lead with an Executive Summary, not exceeding four (4) pages. The Executive Summary should be written in a nontechnical style and contain sufficient information for reviewers with both technical and nontechnical backgrounds to become familiar with the Applicant's Proposal and its ability to satisfy the financial and technical requirements of the Project.



4.3.2 Applicant Overview

In this section, the Applicant shall provide an introduction to its organization, including a description of any Team Members and the teaming arrangements that will be used to organize and manage the work. The Applicant must detail its relevant experience across the service areas described in the Scope of Work and demonstrate effective, substantive expertise in relation to the proposed activities.

Applicants are expected to exhibit strong leadership, accountability, and continuity. Accordingly, each Applicant must demonstrate that it has a qualified staff and/or team of experienced professionals, supported by a collaborative network that spans both private and public organizations. The Applicant should describe its prior experience in this context to establish its capability to successfully deliver the Scope of Work.

In addition to the narrative overview of the Applicant's team, proposals should also include a completed Form 1: Applicant Information.

4.3.3 Team Structure

The Applicant shall introduce its organization, identifying the Lead Team Member and any additional Team Members, if applicable. The description must include any existing or anticipated teaming or subcontracting arrangements, as well as any technical, legal, or financial advisors or consultants that the Applicant expects to retain to support the performance of the Scope of Work.

Applicants must demonstrate their capacity to successfully execute the Scope of Work by referencing prior experience with projects of similar size, scope, or complexity. An Applicant may be composed of a Lead Team Member and one or more Team Members. Where the Lead Team Member does not have in-house capacity to perform certain aspects of the Scope of Work, it is understood that the Lead Team Member will supplement its resources through teaming arrangements, subcontracting, or by retaining professional services (collectively, the "Team Members").

While subcontracting is permitted, preference will be given to Applicants that can deliver the proposed activities directly or with minimal reliance on subcontractors.

Applicants must:

- Describe the experience and qualifications of the firm and the key individuals that will be engaged in the proposed project, including experience with endeavors like the Scope of Work (comparable size and complexity)
- Describe the length of time doing business, business experience, public sector experience, and other relevant engagements of the firm
- Include the identity of any firms that will provide the services

4.3.4 SOW Experience

Applicants should detail their experience with developing similar projects, which can include descriptions of the following:



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- Applicant's experience with developing similar projects, ideally within the last 5 years
- Provide evidence of expertise in the technical areas described in the Statement of Work
- Present examples from case studies, or otherwise describe previous projects, highlighting objectives, scope, method and outcomes
- Highlight familiarity with overarching SOW items for any adjacent projects performed

4.3.5 Approach

Provide a narrative statement, not to exceed ten (10) pages, outlining a proposed work plan to fulfill the Scope of Work as defined in **Section 3.2**. The narrative statement may include:

- Describe the Applicant's understanding of the various challenges that may be encountered over the course of the project. Define key challenges in the provision of services and how these can most effectively be addressed through the Applicant's approach to completing this work.
- Provide a high-level summary of how the Applicant will achieve the goals, objectives, tasks, and deliverables outlined in the Scope of Work for this RFP. Specifically address how the Applicant will effectively communicate with PRBP regarding governance and organizational procedures for tasks identified in the Scope of Work.
- Provide a summary of how the integration and coordination of Applicant team capabilities described in **Section 4.3.3**, Team Structure will facilitate the satisfactory fulfillment of the Scope of Work.
- Provide a detailed Work Plan indicating how the Applicant will execute the project Scope of Work and meet the objectives stated in this RFP. The work plan shall include, at a minimum, a detailed list and description of (i) primary workstreams and work phases, (ii) key deliverables for each phase, (iii) key activities for each phase, and (iv) projected touch points for collaboration with PRBP and/or the Grant Committee. The Applicant's proposed Work Plan should align with PRBP's projected Program Schedule as outlined in **Section 3.1**. Any deviations from this schedule must be clearly identified and accompanied by a detailed justification, including the underlying causes and potential impacts on project delivery.

Applicants may, at their discretion, submit an optional proposal for one or more of the following components, as described in Section 3.2.3 (Cable Installation): Front Haul, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), and Beach Manhole (BMH).

The optional components shall be provided in a standalone appendix, separate from the base technical and cost submissions for Marine Survey, Cable Manufacturing, and Cable Installation.

The appendix shall include:

- A technical description of the proposed optional component, including assumptions and interfaces.
- A detailed and disaggregated cost schedule.



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- Any dependencies, risks, or permitting requirements that could impact delivery.

Optional components will be considered independently of the evaluation of the base subsea scope. The PRBP reserves full discretion to review, negotiate, or decline any or all optional components without impact to the evaluation of the main subsea proposal.

4.3.6 Resumes

Applicants must submit resumes or curriculum vitae for all Key Personnel proposed for assignment to the Scope of Work. Each resume shall not exceed three (3) pages and must emphasize the individual's relevant experience and qualifications with respect to the Services. For purposes of this RFP, Key Personnel are those team members who will be directly responsible for performing all or part of the Scope of Work.

Applicants must also disclose any individuals associated with the PRBP who, to the Applicant's knowledge, would be required to disqualify themselves from participating in any transaction arising out of or connected to the Scope of Work, in light of the applicable conflict-of-interest provisions, including but not limited to Section 2.7 of this RFP.

In addition, each of the Applicant's Principal Member(s) shall provide a summary of their professional background and qualifications relevant to the Scope of Work. For purposes of this RFP, Principal Member(s) are defined as the senior figures responsible for the Applicant's management and oversight.

Each resume for Key Personnel shall not exceed two (2) pages and must include, at a minimum:

1. Full name and current title/position.
2. Educational background and professional certifications.
3. Summary of relevant professional experience, with emphasis on projects of similar scope or complexity.
4. Description of the individual's specific role and responsibilities under the proposed Scope of Work.

Applicants are encouraged to designate and propose only those individuals they reasonably believe will be available for a given role. Applicants are advised that Selected Applicant personnel changes must be requested in writing and will be subject to the PRBP's approval. Key Personnel changes without the PRBP's prior approval may result in disqualification or removal of the Selected Applicant.

4.3.7 Compliance, Risk, and Transparency

Describe the Applicant's approach to the following compliance, risk, and transparency considerations:

- How to best ensure overall financial and legal compliance and transparency
- How to best ensure environmental protection and project resiliency
- Key project risks at each phase of work when executing the Scope of Work



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- Applicant's approach to managing the identified risks and proposed mitigation strategies

4.3.8 Improvements and Modifications to the SOW

Applicants may propose improvements or modifications to the activities described in the Scope of Work. Any such revisions must be clearly identified in the proposal and accompanied by a justification supporting the proposed change.

Applicants are also encouraged to identify any gaps in the information provided in this RFP that would require additional clarification or outreach. Where such gaps are identified, Applicants should outline a proposed plan to address them, should the Applicant be engaged to perform the Scope of Work.

4.4 Price Proposal

Applicants shall submit a detailed price proposal covering all requirements set forth in **Section 3.2** (Scope of Work). The price proposal must be organized in the sections specified below and should include all relevant information necessary to demonstrate the Applicant's ability to perform the Scope of Work in a cost-effective manner.

4.4.1 Material Changes in Financial Condition

Applicants must disclose any material changes in their financial condition, as well as that of each Team Member (if applicable), over the past three (3) fiscal years and anticipated for the upcoming reporting period. If no such changes have occurred or are pending, the Applicant and each Team Member shall provide a signed certification letter from their Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, or equivalent officer attesting to that fact. The certification letter must be dated no earlier than seven (7) calendar days prior to the proposal Due Date.

At the discretion of the PRBP, any failure to disclose a prior or pending material change may result in disqualification from further participation in the selection process. In instances where a material change has occurred, or is anticipated, the affected entity shall provide a statement describing each material change in detail, the likelihood that the developments will continue during the period of performance of the Project, and the projected full extent of the changes likely to be experienced in the periods ahead.

If a material change is expected to have a negative impact, the affected entity shall also provide a discussion of the measures it will implement to mitigate such impact and insulate the Project from any recent, ongoing, or reasonably anticipated financial changes.

Set forth below is a representative, non-exhaustive list of events that the PRBP considers to constitute a material change in financial condition. This list is provided for illustrative purposes only.

List of Representative Material Changes:

- An event of default or bankruptcy involving the affected entity.



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- A change in credit rating (if applicable) for the affected entity.
- Inability to meet conditions of loan or debt covenants by the affected entity.
- The affected entity either: (i) the financial statements indicate that expenses and losses exceed income (i.e. negative net income excluding earnings from non-controlling interests); (ii) incurred a net operating loss (i.e. negative income before taxes, or negative earnings before taxes); or (iii) sustained negative cash flows from operating activities; in at least one of the last three fiscal periods, the affected entity shall provide a discussion of measures that will be undertaken to make the entity profitable in the future and an estimate of when the entity will be profitable.
- Other events known to the affected entity, or parent organization of the affected entity which represent a material change in financial condition over the past three (3) years or may be pending for the next reporting period.

4.4.2 Budget Breakdown

Provide a full description of the pricing structure, as well as sufficient information regarding performance metrics built into this structure.

Based on the proposed Approach described in **Section 4.3**, provide an estimated budget for the project. All costs must be detailed and not contain lump sums. Outline the cost breakdown and fee structure anticipated to fulfill the RFP scope, including SOW activities as well as any additional services that the Applicant will anticipate to use. The budget breakdown should clearly attribute fees by phase of work and/or specific task as defined in the Applicant's work plan in **Section 4.3.5**. Include a breakdown of (i) SOW fees, (ii) Technical Advisory/Consultant fees, and (iii) any additional or optional consultant fees anticipated.

5. Proposal Evaluation

5.1 Proposal Evaluation Procedure

All responsive proposals received by the RFP closing date specified in **Section 2.3** will be evaluated and scored.

An Evaluation Committee, designated by the PRBP, will review, evaluate, and score all proposals, including oral presentations if required. Each member of the Evaluation Committee shall possess the necessary experience to conduct proposal evaluations and will perform an independent assessment of the submissions in accordance with the evaluation criteria and contractual conditions set forth in this RFP.

Evaluation Committee members will score proposals according to the stated evaluation criteria at their discretion. Point assignments from each member of the committee will be totaled for an overall proposal score. Applicants will be ranked based on these overall scores. In the event of a tie between two overall proposal scores, the Evaluation Committee will assess the awarded scores to determine whether any adjustments are appropriate. If appropriate, any adjustments made will be approved by the PRBP. If no adjustments are warranted, the Government Parties may use individual scoring criterion within each evaluation criteria category to break the tie.



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The PRBP reserves the right to request additional information from any Applicant, as needed, during the proposal evaluation process. PRBP may also require an Applicant to expand or narrow the proposed Scope of Work and, as a result, adjust the corresponding budget estimate to reflect the revised terms.

5.2 Proposal Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Method

The scoring and ranking of each proposal will be based on a scoring method using weighted formulas for technical merit (ability to meet scope of work/schedule), qualifications (expertise and references) and price. The total score for each proposal will be on a scale of 0 to 100 points. Three general categories will be used to evaluate the proposals:

Category	Maximum Number of Points Per Category
Technical Solution & Timeline	45 points
Experience & Qualifications	30 points
Pricing	25 points
Total	100 points

Scores for the **Technical Solution & Timeline** category will be based primarily on the quality of the Applicant's Technical Proposal. Evaluators will assess the extent to which the proposed technical approach adequately and comprehensively addresses the Scope of Work requirements set forth in **Section 3.2** of this RFP.

Scores for the **Experience & Qualifications** category will be based on the Applicant's prior experience performing services related to cable landing station design and construction, the Applicant's local experience in Puerto Rico, and overall compliance with the information requirements set forth in this RFP.

Direct preference will be given to Applicants that are duly registered to do business in Puerto Rico at the time of proposal submission. Applicants not yet registered must demonstrate a clear and feasible timeline for obtaining registration, as well as identify the resources dedicated to completing this process.

Applicants shall submit cost proposals clearly separated by service category (Marine Survey, Cable Manufacturing, Cable Installation) and, where applicable, a consolidated total for turnkey proposals. If a proponent chooses to include the **optional components** (as described in **Section 3.2.3**), such costs shall:

- Be presented as a **separate line item**, separated from the primary subsea installation scope.
- Include clear technical and commercial assumptions.
- Not affect the evaluation of the base proposal for subsea works.



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The proposal that offers the lowest evaluated price for the relevant base scope shall receive the maximum points allocated to pricing. However, the PRBP will take into consideration the quality of product and overall value in combination with the pricing considerations.

- In the case of the cable manufacturing applicants, they may present multiple product types with their proposal.

The PRBP reserves full discretion to compare turnkey and component proposals in order to determine the most cost-effective and value-driven award configuration. Optional front haul pricing will be evaluated separately and solely at the PRBP's discretion.

5.3 Basis for Selection and Award of an Agreement for Services

The PRBP will seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable Agreement for Services with the first-ranked Applicant. If an agreement cannot be finalized within fifteen (15) calendar days of the initial selection, PRBP reserves the right to terminate negotiations with that Applicant and initiate negotiations with the next highest-ranked Applicant. This process may continue, in order of ranking, until PRBP reaches a mutually acceptable Agreement for Services and makes an award.

6. Disclosures

6.1 General Disclosures, Rights, Options and Disclaimers

The issuance of this RFP, the submission of a proposal by any firm or team, and the acceptance of such proposal by the PRBP shall not oblige the PRBP in any way. Applicants shall be bound by their proposals only for the sixty (60) days specified in this RFP. Legal obligations will arise solely upon the execution of a formal agreement between the PRBP and the selected firm or team.

By responding to this RFP, Applicants acknowledge and consent to the conditions applicable to this procurement process. The PRBP is under no obligation to accept any proposal that does not meet its requirements. Without limitation, and in addition to other rights reserved by the PRBP in this RFP, the PRBP reserves and retains, at its sole discretion, the following rights and options:

- To accept or reject all submittals, in whole or in part.
- To discuss and negotiate with any or all Applicants terms that differ from, or are in addition to, those set forth in this RFP or contained in any proposal submitted.
- To cancel this RFP in whole or in part, at any time, with or without substitution of another RFP if such cancellation is determined to be in the best interest of the PRBP.
- To supplement, amend, or otherwise modify this RFP prior to the date of submission of the proposals.



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- To receive written questions concerning this RFP from any Applicant and to distribute such questions, together with the PRBP's responses, to all Applicants that have received a copy of this RFP.
- To require additional information from one or more Applicants to supplement or clarify the proposals submitted.
- To conduct further investigations with respect to the qualifications and experience of each Applicant.
- To visit and contact the Applicant's client in any of the projects or engagements referenced in the proposals to obtain direct information regarding the Applicant's performance in such engagements.
- To disqualify any Applicants that submit a nonconforming, non-responsive, incomplete, inadequate, or conditional proposal.
- To investigate the technical and financial qualifications of Applicants through sources other than those contained in the proposals submitted.

All costs and expenses incurred by Applicants in the preparation and submission of a proposal shall be the sole responsibility of the Applicants. The PRBP shall not, under any circumstances, be liable for any such costs or expenses, including, without limitation, those arising from the cancellation of this RFP process. Applicants shall have no right to claim reimbursement from the PRBP or from any instrumentality of the Government for any costs or expenses related to their participation in this procurement.

Applicants should submit their best proposals initially, since negotiations are not guaranteed.

The laws of Puerto Rico govern this RFP process. Any disputes relating to this RFP must be resolved accordingly. The exclusive venue for a judicial challenge is the Appeals Court of Puerto Rico as provided for by the laws of Puerto Rico.

6.2 Accuracy of RFP and Related Documents

The PRBP assumes no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of any technical or background information provided in this RFP or otherwise distributed or made available during this procurement process. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the PRBP shall not be bound by, or held responsible for, any explanation or interpretation of the RFP documents except those issued in writing by the PRBP. Under no circumstances may an Applicant rely on any oral statement made by the PRBP's agents, advisors, or consultants.

6.3 Confidential or Proprietary Information

One copy of each proposal will be retained for the PRBP's records and will not be returned. If an Applicant believes that its proposal contains material that is confidential and/or proprietary, the Applicant must clearly mark each section of such material as "Confidential" or "Proprietary." The PRBP will, in its sole discretion, determine whether such material meets the requirements for exemption from disclosure under applicable laws and regulations, including Puerto Rico's public disclosure statutes. The Applicant



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may also submit a redacted version along with their submission to cover any claims of confidentiality.

If the PRBP determines that the material does not qualify for an exemption, such material may be made available to the public, if and to the extent required by applicable law, regardless of the Applicant's notation or markings. Applicants are solely responsible for becoming familiar with the disclosure requirements governing public documents in Puerto Rico.

By submitting a proposal, Applicants acknowledge and agree that:

- The PRBP shall have no responsibility or liability for the disclosure of any information submitted, whether or not marked as confidential or proprietary, if the PRBP determines that disclosure is required by law.
- Any Applicant asserting confidentiality shall be solely responsible, as the real party in interest, for objecting to disclosure and for defending any action necessary to protect its confidential information, at its own cost and expense.
- The PRBP will not be responsible or liable in any way for any losses or damages the Applicant may suffer as a result of disclosure of information or materials to third parties.

6.4 Further Contract Conditions

The contents of the proposal prepared by the selected Applicant or Applicants, with any amendment approved by the PRBP, will become part of the Agreement with the selected Applicant as a result of this RFP process. The Agreement will include those clauses required when contracting services similar to those procured under this RFP and those included in contracts with the Government, such as contractual provisions at execution of an agreement, requiring:

- Sole Registry of Professional Services Providers Certification ("RUP", for its Spanish acronym), issued by the Puerto Rico General Services Administration ("ASC", for its Spanish acronym) pursuant to the Regulation for Sole Registry of Professional Services Providers, Regulation No. 9302E, issued on August 26, 2021.
- All data generated and systems used during the rendering of the Services must comply with the public policies of data and technology issued by the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Services ("PRITS"), pursuant to Act No. 75-2019, and applicable regulations.
- Original certifications evidencing that Applicant has complied with its responsibility in the filing of tax returns and payment of its taxes, including sale and use tax as applicable, to the Government, to the U.S. Government, and to the state or jurisdiction where its base of operations resides, to the extent applicable.
- Commercial Registration Certification, issued by the Puerto Rico Treasury Department.
- Certification of Compliance issued by the Puerto Rico Child Support Administration ("ASUME", for its Spanish acronym). Corporations must request this certification from ASUME's Employer Unit. The certification confirms that the employer is in compliance with all applicable child support withholding orders issued against it in its capacity as employer.



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- Sworn statement, signed by the President or Chief Executive Office authorized to act on behalf of the Applicant, indicating that the Applicant, its subsidiaries, affiliates and/or parent companies, and their respective shareholders, directors, partners, officers, executives, or principals have neither been convicted nor has probable cause for their arrest been found against any of them, nor are they being investigated under any administrative, judicial or legislative procedure, whether within or outside of Puerto Rico, or any other legal provision penalizing crimes against the treasury and the public trust, and that the person signing the statement has not been investigated, arrested, convicted, or found guilty or sentenced as a result of said criminal conduct.
- Certification of Employer Registration and of Debt in Respect of Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance issued by the Workplace Safety Bureau, Tax Division, Collection Unit of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources ("PR-DLHR"). The same shall indicate that the contractor does not have a debt with the Disability Insurance and Unemployment Insurance Programs. If the person is not an employer, it shall indicate that the person is not registered as an Employer and therefore does not have any debt.
- Certification of Employer Registration and of Debt in Respect of Driver's Insurance issued by the Persons with Non-Occupational Disabilities and Driver's Insurance Bureau of the PR-DLHR. The same shall indicate that the contractor does not have a debt with the Non-Occupational Disability Insurance and Driver's Insurance Programs. If the person is not an employer, it shall indicate that the person is not registered as an Employer and therefore does not have any debt.
- No debt Certification and copy of current policy issued by the Puerto Rico State Insurance Fund ("CFSE", for its Spanish acronym).
- Certification of Existence or Certification of Authorization to do business in Puerto Rico. The Certification of Existence indicates that the applicant is incorporated under the laws of Puerto Rico and is issued by the Puerto Rico State Department ("PR-SD"). The Certification of authorization to do business in Puerto Rico applies to foreign companies. It indicates that the applicant is authorized to do business in Puerto Rico and is issued by the PR-SD. The certification indicates the date of issuance and authorization to do business in Puerto Rico.

All certifications must be current, that is, issued within thirty (30) days from the date the selected Applicant executes the Agreement with the PRBP. The selected Applicant will be contractually required to abide by the laws of Puerto Rico as governing laws under the Agreement. The PRBP shall reserve the right to terminate any contract entered into as a result of this RFP at any time, provided that written notice has been given at least thirty (30) days prior to such proposed termination date.

In addition to the foregoing, the Agreement shall provide that all Deliverables and Work Product arising from the Services shall become the property of PRBP, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

6.5 Insurance Requirements

Selected Applicant, at its sole cost and expense, shall provide proof of insurance, upon execution of the Agreement by submitting a Certificate of Insurance to the PRBP. As a



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minimum, Selected Applicant shall provide and maintain insurance consistent with industry practice, required by law and the following minimum types and limits of insurance in compliance with all applicable laws with insurance carriers satisfactory to PRBP.

- Workers' Compensation: Occurrence based coverage providing benefits in the minimal amount required by applicable law, including, if applicable to the supply of goods or services under this Agreement, Workers Compensation Acts of applicable U.S. States, the U.S. Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers Compensation Act and the U.S. Jones Act.
- Professional Liability insurance to provide for errors, omissions, and negligent acts, for a minimum of \$1,000,000 per claim.
- Commercial General Liability Insurance: Occurrence based coverage with a combined single limit of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and in the aggregate for premises and operations; products and completed operations; contractual liability coverage for indemnities of Applicant contained within agreements with PRBP; broad form property damage (including completed operations); and personal injury and

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and to the extent of the obligations expressly assumed by the Applicant hereunder, all insurance policies maintained by Selected Applicant in accordance with the requirements set forth above shall include the PRBP as additional insured (except Workers' Compensation) and include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the PRBP. Applicant's insurance shall be regarded as primary and non-contributory with respect to the work outlined in this RFP and the Agreement.

6.6 General Federal Funds Requirements

The PRBP anticipates that some or all the costs incurred under the contract that could be awarded pursuant to this RFP could be funded, partially and/or in whole, with federal funds. Consequently, any contract executed in relation to this RFP shall be governed by certain federal terms and conditions for federal grants, including any applicable circulars issued by the U.S. Government Office of Management and Budget ("USOMB").

Moreover, in the event any federal funding is used in the contract that could be awarded pursuant to this RFP, this procurement process is intended to be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, as codified under 2 C.F.R. Part 200, et seq., issued by the USOMB pursuant to the authority granted under 31 U.S.C. 503 ("Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements"), which outlines the methods of procurement to be followed by non-federal entities.

Furthermore, said potential contract shall be also governed by any specific terms and conditions set forth by the awarding federal agency(ies). Below is an indicative list of the applicable federal terms and provisions (collectively, the "Federal Fund Requirements"):

- Registrations within the System for Award Management (SAM)



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- Regulations and/or guidance issued by the U.S. Government regarding: the Infrastructure Act; the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116-127); the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116-260); relevant disposition of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 116-260); and/or the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2).
- Department of Commerce's Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (R&D Award, and/or Federal-Wide Research Terms and Conditions, as adopted by the Department of Commerce.
- Department of Commerce's Specific Award Conditions for Multi Year Awards.
- Domestic Preference for Procurements, 2 C.F.R. Sec. 200.332.
- Equal Employment Opportunity requirements, including, but not limited to, those levied in the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Civil Right Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, and/or the Civil Rights Act of 1991.
- Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards, 40 U.S.C. 3701, et seq.
- Access to Records, 2 C.F.R. Sec. 200.337.
- Retention Requirements for Records, 2 C.F.R. Sec. 200.334.
- Contracting with Small and Minority Business, Women's Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms, 2 C.F.R. Sec. 200.321.
- Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. Sec. 1352, as amended.
- The Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements.
- Contract Cost Principles and Procedures, 48 C.F.R. Part 31
- Davis Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. Sec. 3141, et seq., as amended.
- Copeland Anti-Kickback Act, 40 U.S.C. Sec. 3145, as amended.
- Executive Order No. 12549 of 1986, Debarment and Suspension; and Executive Order No. 12689 of 1989, Debarment and Suspension (codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 180, and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000
- US Treasury's Supplemental Guidance concerning the administration of funding for broadband projects, including, but not limited, to the SLFRF and CPF Supplementary Broadband Guidance issued on May 17, 2023, as they may be amended from time to time.
- FCC's Ownership Disclosure Requirements for Applications, as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7).

6.7 Right of Reconsideration and Judicial Review

Petition for Reconsideration

Any Applicant adversely affected by the selection may file a motion for reconsideration before the OMB within ten (10) days after the Notice of Award is sent by electronic mail.

Motions for reconsideration shall be submitted to faq@smartisland.pr.gov.

The OMB shall resolve petitions for reconsideration within ten (10) days of receipt. The OMB's final adjudication of any petition for reconsideration, protest, or request for review shall constitute its final determination for purposes of judicial review. The term to seek judicial review shall begin to run on the date the notice of the OMB's final determination



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is sent. If the OMB does not issue a decision within the applicable ten (10)-day period, the petition shall be deemed denied by operation of law, and the term to seek judicial review before the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals shall begin to run as of that date.

Any party adversely affected by a final determination of the OMB may seek judicial review before the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals within twenty (20) days from the date on which the OMB's final decision is filed and notified. The filing of an appeal for judicial review shall not stay or otherwise delay the award or execution of the contested RFP.

By submitting a proposal, each Applicant acknowledges, agrees, and warrants that it will strictly observe and comply with all applicable Federal Fund Requirements.



Attachment A. Form 1: Applicant Information

Name of Applicant:
Team Member Firm:
Year Established:
Organization's Leadership (Executive Director/CEO/Chairman) Contact Details
Name of Contact:
Title:
Telephone:
Email:
Headquarters Address:
Address of Office Performing Work (If different from Headquarters):
Applicant Contact Details (if someone other than Organization's Leadership)
Name of Contact:
Title:
Telephone:
Email:
Address:
Organization Details
Federal Tax ID No. (if applicable):
North American Industry Classification Code:
Business Organization (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation, <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated Association, <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership, <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation, or <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe): _____



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Not-for-profit Status:

If the Applicant is responding as a team - a Consortium, Partnership, Joint Venture, or Limited Liability Company - state the type of arrangement and structure between the firms, indicate the name and role of each member firm in the space below. Indicate which firm is the Lead Team Member. Complete a separate Information form (Form-1) for each member firm and attach it to the Proposal.

Team Arrangement and Structure:

<u>Name of Member Firms</u>	<u>Role</u>

Under penalty of perjury, I certify that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am the firm's Official Representative:

By:	Print Name:
Title:	Date:

[Please make additional copies of this form as needed.]



Attachment B. Form 2: Applicant Qualifications

Applicants shall complete the table below for each qualification included in their response. For each teaming member, Applicants must provide a narrative description of three (3) to five (5) past or current engagements that are most relevant to the Scope of Work under this RFP and that best demonstrate the Applicant's qualifications and experience.

Each project narrative must include, at a minimum:

1. Applicant's Role and Responsibilities
 - The Applicant's role in the project.
 - The nature of the engagement.
 - The responsibilities entrusted and the work performed.
2. Expertise and Teaming Arrangements (as applicable)
 - Technical, legal, and/or financial expertise integrated into the project.
 - How teaming entities were organized.
 - The Applicant's role in managing and/or coordinating technical, legal, and/or financial advisors.
3. Project Intent, Challenges, and Outcomes
 - The overall intent of the work.
 - Key challenges encountered.
 - Outcomes and results achieved.
4. Personnel Participation
 - Identification of key personnel and additional resources proposed in this RFP that also participated in the referenced project.
 - The functions performed by those individuals.

Please limit each completed qualification table to one page.

Table 1. Qualification Table

Client Name:	Project Name:	
Applicant Name:	Location:	Sector:
Project Value (Usd):	Start Date:	End Date:
Key Personnel:		
Narrative Description of Project per Instructions Above		
[Please make additional copies of this form as needed.]		



Attachment C. Form 3: Applicant References

REFERENCE 1	
Applicant (or Team Member, as applicable)	
Name of the project on which the reference hired or worked with the referee	
Name of reference	
Reference's title/position	
Reference's organization	
Reference's office phone and/or cell numbers (2)	
Reference E-mail address	
Reference's address	
REFERENCE 2	
Applicant (or Team Member, as applicable)	
Name of the project on which the reference hired or worked with the referee	
Name of reference	
Reference's title/position	
Reference's organization	
Reference's office phone and/or cell numbers (2)	
Reference E-mail address	
Reference's address	
REFERENCE 3	
Applicant (or Team Member, as applicable)	
Name of the project on which the reference hired or worked with the referee	
Name of reference	
Reference's title/position	
Reference's organization	
Reference's office phone and/or cell numbers (2)	
Reference E-mail address	
Reference's address	



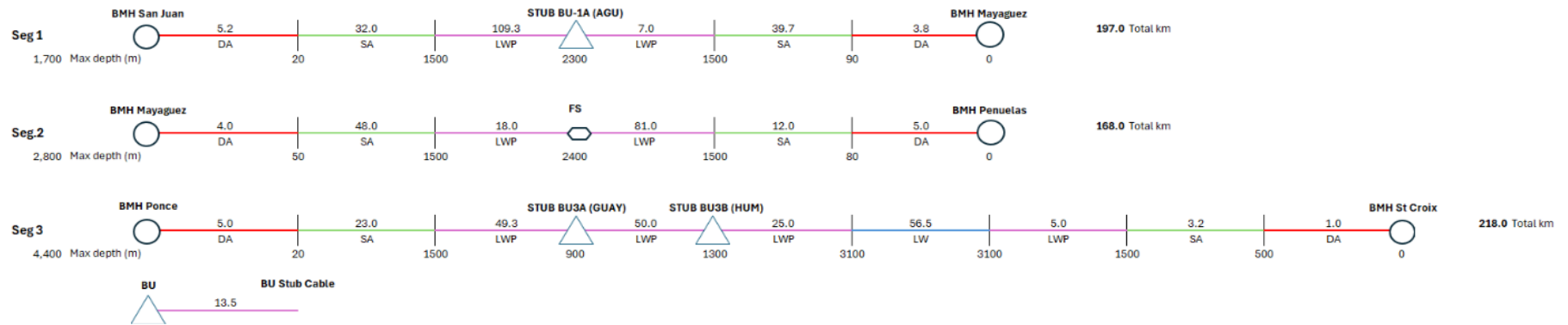
Attachment D. Survey Information and Parameters

Survey Area	Survey Corridor	Data Overlap Requirements	Segment 1 (qty / km)	Segment 2 (qty / km)	Segment 3 (qty / km)
Branching Unit	3 x WD box centered around proposed BU location	Bathymetric 20%	1 Branching Unit	NA	2 Branching Units
Deep Water (>1500m WD to full ocean depth)	Minimum of 2km swath or 2.5 x WD, whichever greater	Bathymetric 20%	116.3	99.0	185.8
Shallow Water 1000m to 1500m WD	1000m	Bathymetric 20%, SSS 100%	26.7	35.0	16.2
Shallow Water 200m to 1000m WD	500m	Bathymetric 20%, SSS 100%	30.0	20.0	8.0
Shallow Water 15m to 200m WD	500m	Bathymetric 20%, SSS 100%	15.0	5.0	2.0
Small Boat 3 to 15m WD	500m	SSS 100%	7.0	8.0	5.0
Diver Swim 0 to 3m WD	250m	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.5
Landing Site	250m	50m landward of the BMH	0.1	0.1	0.1

Projection	Mercator / North Up
Chart Datum	W.G.S. – 84
Scale	1:100,000 for water depths greater than End of Burial. 1:10,000 for water depths between 20 and EOB meters 1:5,000 for water depths less than 20 meters 1:2,500 for Landing Charts
Deep Sea Charts	One complete set of charts that include bathymetry.
Nearshore and Small Boat Charts	One complete set of charts that include bathymetry, and geomorphologic charts (geologic interpretation, and hazards plotted)



Attachment E. Submarine Cable Parameters



System Cable Type Summary (km)		Spare Cable Type (km)		Total Burial
DA	24.0	DA	5.0	0.0
SA	157.9	SA	20.0	
LWP	358.1	LWP	50.0	
LW	56.5			
Total	596.5	Total	75.0	
		Sum Total	671.5	



Attachment F. Submarine Cable Installation

Cable Segment	Description	Mileage	Kilometers	Fiber Pairs	Repeaterless
1	San Juan - Mayagüez	122	197	24	Yes
2	Mayagüez - Penuelas	104	168	24	Yes
3	Ponce - USVI	136	218	24	Yes

With Options:

Cable Segment	Description	Mileage	Kilometers	Fiber Pairs	Repeaterless
1	San Juan - Mayagüez	122	197	24	Yes
1A	Aguadilla - BU1A	3.8	6	4	Yes
2	Mayagüez - Penuelas	104	168	24	Yes
3	Ponce - USVI	136	218	24	Yes
3A	Guayama – BU3A	1.9	3	4	Yes
3B	Humacao – BU3B	2.5	4	4	Yes

Cable Segment	Description	Landing Type	HDD Required	Split Pipe	Existing BMH	Land Cable (BMH-CLS)	FH OSP CONDUIT (BMH-CLS)	Notes	Config
1	San Juan	Pre-Laid Shore End - 4.0km	No Existing Duct TBD	250m	Yes	1,000m	Existing		BASE
1	Mayagüez	Direct Shore End	Yes 1 x 750m (5 inch bore pipe)	250m	New BMH Required	1,000m	1 x 4" HDPE/PVC Schedule 40 Duct	Possible option for international landing site. Potentially add + 3 bores	BASE
2	Mayagüez	Direct Shore End	Yes 1 x 750m (5 inch bore pipe)	250m	New BMH Required	1,000m	1 x 4" HDPE/PVC Schedule 40 Duct	Possible option for international landing site	BASE
2	Ponce	Pre-laid Shore End - 5.0km	Yes 1 x 750m (5 inch bore pipe)	250m	New BMH Required	500m	1 x 4" HDPE/PVC Schedule 40 Duct	Ponce or Penuelas are priority, one may fall out and combine as one LP	BASE
3	Ponce	Pre-laid Shore End - 5.0km	Yes 1 x 750m (5 inch bore pipe)	250m	New BMH Required	3,000m	1 x 4" HDPE/PVC Schedule 40 Duct	Ponce or Penuelas are priority, one may fall out and combine as one LP	BASE
3	St. Croix (Butler Bay)	Direct Shore End	No Existing Duct - 345m	250m	Yes	500m	Existing	Existing ownership	BASE



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