

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
VERSION 1.4
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONDUIT DESIGN AND
ENGINEERING SERVICES RFP**



**The Puerto Rico Broadband Program of the Puerto Rico Office of
Management and Budget**

Notes:

The below FAQs are for informational purposes only and are intended solely to assist potential Proponents in better understanding the TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONDUIT DESIGN and ENGINEERING SERVICES RFP and the application requirements set forth in the RFP procedural document. The FAQs do not and are not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific application requirements set forth in the RFP. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the RFP, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in the below FAQs.

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| Version | Date | Description of changes and person responsible for making changes. |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 1.0 | 11/30/2024 | First published draft of the Conduit and Engineering FAQ. |
| 1.1 | 12/22/2024 | Incorporated new responses from applicant questions.. |
| 1.2 | 12/29/2023 | Incorporated new responses from applicant questions.. |
| 1.3 | 01/04/2024 | Incorporated new responses from applicant questions.. |
| 1.4 | 01/05/2024 | Incorporated new responses from applicant questions.. |

1. Overview

1.1. What is an open access conduit network?

An open access conduit system is a network of duct banks, interconnection points and neutral host colocation sites. This system ensures non-discriminatory access in perpetuity to the network to telecom network providers, enterprise customers, government entities, and other third parties at reasonable rates and terms throughout the life span of the network.

1.2. Why is an open access conduit network important, and how does this infrastructure impact broadband services?

Open access conduit networks provide the framework to lower costs for last-mile providers to build further and faster into areas where broadband infrastructure is currently lacking. This model promotes competition amongst service providers, reducing the required capital expenditures (CAPEX) to build last mile connections. In addition to serving residential customers, open access networks also serve enterprise customers, community anchor institutions, and other critical infrastructure. Open access conduit networks support economic development and other investments in historically overlooked areas. Other benefits include reduced strain on government agencies (including Permitting & Public Safety), increased cost savings and product offerings for consumers, and expanded flexibility and scalability for future growth in an area.

1.3. What types of entities use open access networks?

A wide range of entities utilize open access networks: traditional internet and wireless service providers, electric utilities that interconnect critical infrastructure, government agencies, large technology companies.

1.4. What is the Telecommunications Conduit Design and Engineering Service RFP?

Through Available Funding, as defined in **Section 2.5** of the RFP, the Government Parties are working to address many broadband challenges, as described in the Puerto Rico Broadband Strategic Plan and the Gigabit Island Plan indicated in **Section 1.3** of the RFP, to ensure that Puerto Rican residents have proper access to internet broadband connections. The Government Parties aim to modernize Puerto Rico's broadband infrastructure through the Scope of Work and/or Services solicited hereunder in **Section 2.2**.

Through the RFP, the Government Parties are seeking to obtain proposals from duly competent firms that can assist with the design and engineering of a buried conduit and fiber optic network that will interconnect up to seventy-eight (78) Municipalities of Puerto Rico and, additionally, up to three (3) planned and one (1) existing subsea landing stations in connection with the PUERTO RICO BROADBAND PROGRAM and/or the Strategic Plan, as further defined hereunder (the "Services", or the "Scope of Work"):

1.5. Why is the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico funding open-access network infrastructure?

Due to recent environmental events that have impacted the infrastructure, the Puerto Rico Broadband Program is addressing the need for more resilient and hardened infrastructure. The program has established four pillars focusing on connectivity and resilience, quality and speed, accessibility, and knowledge of broadband. Each pillar is supported by specific goals to measure progress that aims to achieve high-speed internet connectivity and greater broadband adoption for all residents and businesses on the island. For the scope of the RFP, the Puerto Rico Broadband Program will be focusing on two pillars: Connectivity and Resilience and Quality and Speed.

Connectivity and Resilience:

The Puerto Rico Broadband Program will design key infrastructure routes that provide hardened pathways for telecommunications service providers and other broadband stakeholders, interconnect community anchor institutions, promote competition, and support the long-term sustainability of broadband infrastructure and the broadband workforce.

Quality and Speed:

The Puerto Rico Broadband Program aims to provide low latency broadband capable of speeds above 100/20 Mbps and to improve infrastructure for speeds of 1000/500 Mbps whenever feasible. This program will also support connections in rural areas and facilitate gigabit symmetrical service for community anchor institutions.

1.6. Will the PUERTO RICO BROADBAND PROGRAM be providing any GIS basemap or route data as part of the attachments for this RFP?

All map base map and proposed route documentation will need to be provided by the Proponent

1.7. Is the engineering and design for the landing stations (3 new and 1 existing) part of the scope of this RFP or will points of connection (landing points) be provided?

Reference to the landing stations is to highlight that the conduit routes will need to take these into consideration. More specific data regarding the landing stations will be shared with the selected Proponent once the RFP is awarded.

1.8. In Section 1.4 – Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program. The period of performance is from Nov 15, 2022, to Nov 14, 2027. Is this the RFS (ready for service) date for the whole project?

Potentially yes, the BEAD performance period is the availability window to request funding from the NTIA for all Deployment and Non-Deployment programs. Projects using BEAD funding should be completed before the final date of November 27th, 2027. Funding from BEAD program will be used to construct the island wide conduit network. All funding from the Conduit Design and Engineering RFP will come from the Puerto Rico Broadband Infrastructure Fund (PRBIF) and does not have an end date for the funding period.

2. Purpose of the RFP

2.1 What is the Scope of Work for the RFP?

The Proponent will be responsible for engineering and designing a buried conduit system and fiber optic network in up to seventy-eight (78) municipalities, three (3) planned landing stations, and one (1) existing data center/landing station and any community anchor institution located near the network.

2.2 What phases are in the project, and what are the required deliverables for each phase?

In total, there will be five phases, with an ongoing incidental support phase. Below is a breakdown summary of what is required of the Proponent for each phase.

Pre-Construction Phase:

During the Pre-Construction Phase, the Proponent will begin data collection for designing the open-access conduit network. This phase will include interviews with project stakeholders, field visits, and feasibility studies. Information collected in this phase will be used to strategically identify and design key routes for the network, validate proposed routes that have already been developed, and designate critical infrastructure and community anchor institutions that need to be incorporated into the overall design.

Design Phase:

During the Design Phase, the Proponent will provide a full design from the inputs received in the Pre-Construction Phase. The Proponent will complete the initial tabletop design, as well as conduct field studies and surveys to identify potential obstacles and challenges for the routes and collocation facilities. This phase will also require the Proponent to assist in the make-ready process, develop construction details, operations, and best practices guides, estimate costs for construction, and perform GIS mapping services to record and document engineering prints and progress.

Engineering Phase:

The Proponent will be responsible for generating construction-ready documentation for government parties and local permitting agencies. The Proponent will inventory all existing infrastructure to be recorded in a GIS Geodatabase and Computer Aided Design (CAD) format. This information will be used to produce profile views and Right of Way (ROW) agreements, as well as geolocate conduit routes, access points, and other items.

This information will also be used to present a preliminary cost estimate known as a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) to delineate the expenses related to an ideal network design. The Proponent will furnish a High-Level Design (HLD) that elucidates construction elements and alternative options, providing insights for budgetary considerations. These elements will culminate in the development of a Low-Level Design (LLD) to include all the specifications and associated costs to develop a Bill of Materials (BOM) for obtaining final budget approvals.

Construction Vendor Selection

Upon completion of the Engineering Phase, the Government Parties will select an entity to construct and manage the open-access conduit network. The Proponent will provide application review support to ensure the selected network developer complies with the standards developed throughout the engineering design process.

Project Management Support:

During the Design and Engineering phases, the Proponent will provide a dedicated Project Manager to manage the design of the open-access conduit network and fiber engineering and serve as a liaison between government parties and the Puerto Rico Broadband Program. The Proponent's Project Manager will be responsible for providing weekly status updates, any changes to the proposed project budget, and any deliverables during and after the period of performance.

Ongoing Incidental and Post-Design Support:

As needed to construct the open-access conduit network successfully, the Proponent will itemize costs to provide additional support after the Final Project Plan milestone.

- **Stakeholder Interviews** – As needed, the Proponent will conduct interviews with relevant stakeholders, in conjunction with input from the Government Parties, to gather design and operation insights up to and during the project's construction phase.
- **Cost Estimation** – In addition to the development of a preliminary cost estimate for the Smart Island Broadband Network Construction Phase, as defined above, the Proponent will refine the cost estimate during each phase above, based on the most updated information to include cost for materials, equipment, labor, permits, and any other relevant expenses and potential areas for cost optimization. Cost and time estimates can be itemized per hour per resource type or in a menu with associated task costs.

2.3 What is a community anchor institution?

Community anchor institutions in Puerto Rico include: schools; libraries; health clinics, health centers, hospitals or other medical providers; public safety entities; institutions of higher education; public housing organizations, including agencies and HUD-assisted housing organizations; community centers; senior centers; job training centers; and places of worship, offices of government entities, correctional and rehabilitation facilities, and public plazas that provide the Government Parties evidence of programming that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.

2.4 Am I required to use the materials identified in Section 2.3.1?

No, all materials identified are recommendations, and the Proponent will have the ability to recommend or propose other materials that meet or surpass the minimum requirements and materials identified in Section 2.3.1.

2.5 Do I need to take into account any special compliance regulation when creating my bill of materials and other cost estimates related to the design of the project?

When compiling your bill of materials and other cost estimates, the Proponent must comply with all federal, state, and local regulations outlined in the Puerto Rico Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Guidelines. Below is a non-exhaustive list of requirements that could impact the overall cost of the project.

- Build America Buy America Act, as established by the Infrastructure Act, amended through Pub. L. 117-328, and incidental regulations, including but not limited to 2 C.F.R. Part 184
- Environmental and Historic Preservation processes (“EHP”), as established, reviewed, amended and/or modified by the US Government and/or Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) from time to time.
 - Clean Water Air Act
 - Federal Water Pollution Control Act
 - National Historic Preservation Act Section 106
- Davis Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. Sec. 3141, et seq., as amended.
- Infrastructure Investment, and Jobs Act prohibits any subgrantee from using BEAD funding to purchase or support fiber optic cables and optical transmission equipment.
- Any State and Local regulations and permitting fees.

2.6 What are the locations in the table for PR_CAI_List 11_22_23.xlsx?

The excel file highlights CAI’s that have been identified by the Puerto Rico Broadband Program as areas of interest and need for the residents of Puerto Rico. This is not an exhaustive list and is used for reference. Please see Section 2.3 for additional information on Community Anchor Institutions.

2.7 Can you please define who will be the key stakeholders for interview process and the required outputs from interviews.

Key stakeholders are any entity with a vested interest in contributing to the development, operation, or use of the open access conduit network. We are currently in the process of creating an expression of

interest (EOI) to solicit feedback from these stakeholders. This feedback will be used to guide our engineering and design, operational procedures, product pricing and other elements that will be incorporated into the overall network plan.

2.8 What are the requirements for field visit and route feasibility studies, define purpose and required output.

Upon completion of the high-level design, the engineering and design firm will be required to validate the design by conducting field and site surveys. The information obtained from the surveys will serve as the foundation to develop engineering CAD prints that will be used for hut design, environmental assessment, right of way engineering, permitting, construction, fiber management system development, and other construction documents.

2.9 Is the PUERTO RICO BROADBAND PROGRAM recommending a specific type of GIS software or system for file storage and vector file creation?

No, there are no specific requirements regarding the type of GIS software or system to be used. The only requirement is that the proposed solution must have the capability of transferring GIS vector data and geodatabases universally across different GIS platforms.

2.10 What are the expected project work phase durations and overall kilometrage for the network design?

Please refer to section 3.3.4. Section D: Work Plan. Incorporating this RFP's guidelines, Applicants are expected to develop their own project timeline that incorporates project milestones and to outline how the proposed schedule will be implemented and maintained. The details of the proposed project timeline should be based on the proposer's past experiences, as well as any perceived obstacles/challenges or other unique design elements associated with developing a network design for this specific initiative. For proposal development purposes only, Applicants may use 2000km (2,000,000m) as a baseline for total project kilometrage.

This work is expected to be completed prior to the end of the third (3rd) quarter of 2024. Additionally, the respondent shall provide Incidental Support for on-going assistance during the construction and post construction phases of the conduit network which could extend through the IJJA BEAD period of performance which could run for up to four (4) years after subgrantee (network owner/operator) selection. Please see Section 2 for additional details and Section III Proposal Contents and Organization 3.5 for evaluation criteria

2.11 In Sec 2.2 – Respondents will have access to provision/acquisition of existing network infrastructure records and required output reports. Could you please provide more detail on what will be provided by the client?

Respondents will have access to information that is in the public domain as well as supplemental information that may be made available during the process. Existing underground telecommunications infrastructure will carry the highest importance.

2.12 In Sec 2.2 para 4 –During the pre-construction design phase what reports are required to be provided? Please provide examples.

During the ROM design process described in section 2.2, in coordination with and at the project administrators' discretion, the RFP awardee will develop and present any necessary reporting templates or mechanisms based on the requirements outlined in the RFP. Specific examples are not available.

2.13 In Sec 2.2 (Design Phase) – The selected Respondent will need provide data showing the community areas requiring priority access to this network?

This will be developed by the Selected Proponent, Puerto Rico Broadband Program, and other government entities during the Pre-Construction phase.

2.14 Do you have an estimate on how many tenants will be using the conduit network once it is constructed?

No, this answer will be developed by the Selected Proponent, Puerto Rico Broadband Program, and other government entities during the Pre-Construction phase.

2.15 Who will determine the total number colocation and interconnect facilities being constructed? , supplier or government.

No, this answer will be developed by the Selected Proponent, Puerto Rico Broadband Program, and other government entities during the Pre-Construction phase.

2.16 In Sec 2.2 (Design Phase) details a requirement for an initial soil description and assessment, identifying areas where rock adder fees may be necessary. Could you please detail the requirements to determine this, is this a visual observation and an intrusive test excavation for example?

The respondent shall use their best judgement, knowledge of local conditions, as well as visual observations and tests to make this determination.

2.17 In Sec 2.3.1 (building laterals) –Could you please provide more information on where major population centers, data centers, peering points and end points are going to be located?

This section identifies potential locations and areas that could be selected for network design. Final determination of these locations or areas will be made during the Pre-Construction Planning phase, based on the results from outreach activities conducted under our expression of interest, as well as interviews with stakeholders, and potential users of the system.

2.18 In Sec 2.3.1 (fiber cables) – Are there federal or state funding program requirements for purchasing materials?

For the deployment phase of the project there is a stipulation under BEAD for Buy America; The Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act includes a “Build America, Buy America” provision that requires at least 55 percent of the cost of products funded by the federal government for projects be made in the country.

2.19 In Sec 2.3.1 (Fiber Cables) – Could you please provide a definition to the term “major road intersections”

A major road intersection as defined by the US Department of Transportation, refers to any location where minor arterial roads, collector roads, or a combination of both intersect.

2.20 In Sec 2.3.1 (conduit distribution) Is the use of open-source satellite imagery acceptable and how will GIS drawing outputs be incorporated into the design?

Use of open source satellite imagery acceptable, but please make sure to review the user license agreement terms and conditions before publishing any maps or drawings.

GIS Drawings outputs can be used in maps, exhibits, and source data for engineering prints. During the engineering phase, it is essential that engineering drawings are created using a CAD drafting system. This facilitates various aspects of the engineering process, including right-of-way engineering, profile views, permitting, and the preparation of final construction packages. Additionally, all construction packages must comply with local, municipal, and state permitting requirements for right-of-way construction.

2.21 Could please explain the concept of a ROM (Raw Order of Magnitude) and how it is utilized to provide the basis of a basic cost estimate?

As stated under section 2.3.2 (ROM), “ROM is a preliminary estimate and planning tool, and the level of detail provided is intentionally broad to reflect the uncertainties inherent in the early stages of the project.” For a framework for initial cost estimating purposes only, respondents may use the benchmark of 2000km (2,000,00m) as the projected total kilometrage. Respondents are encouraged to provide a cost “range to reflect the level of uncertainty at the early project stage.” For more clarification, please refer to the details outlined under section 2.3.2.

2.22 In Sec 2.3.2 (HLD) indicates that some vertical structure design has already started and will require a route design for backhaul. Could you please share with us the specifics of those designs?

At this time, no vertical structure design has taken place.

2.23 For the Post Plan Support Phase. What information does the Respondent need to provide? Is there a period of performance associated with this phase?

Please furnish a list of engineering and administrative services with unit rates that your firm can provide the PUERTO RICO BROADBAND PROGRAM for on-going support, post completion of the engineering and design of the conduit network. which could extend through the IJJA BEAD period of performance which could run for up to four (4) years after subgrantee (network owner/operator) selection. Please see Section 2 for additional details and Section III Proposal Contents and Organization 3.5 for evaluation criteria.

2.24 Could you please define the deliverables required for each phase of work.

Please review Section 2.2 Scope of Work, and Section 2.3 Scope of Work Minimum Requirements for requested deliverables for each phase (Pre-Construction, Design, Engineering, and Project Management Support, and Post Final Plan Support). The list of requirements is non-exhaustive, and we encourage applicants to provide feedback on any additional documents that may be necessary during each phase.

2.25 What licenses/accreditations will be required to design and engine (PE, RA, AIT, EIT, Bachelor, RCDD, PMP, etc.)?

All respondents are required to comply with federal, state, and local law and regulations for engineering and design. Respondents must demonstrate it has a staff and/or a team of experienced professionals and a dynamic collaborators network that include a broad range of organizations, relative to the scope of work. Furthermore, each respondent will be evaluated under Section 3.3.2: Background on Firm & Team Qualifications.

2.26 Will the Puerto Rico Broadband Program require a web-based platform for the management of these projects?

There is no hard requirement to provide web applications or tools to support the scope of work of this project, creating web applications is a great way of showcasing your firms' capabilities. These tools can also assist in visualizing the overall project status and potential project roadblocks. As part of your proposal, these services will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in Section 5.1 Proposal Evaluation Procedure and Criteria - Exhibits 1 & 2 in the RFP.

2.27 What information will need to be defined during the Pre-Construction and Design phases?

- Any routes currently being constructed can be incorporated into the network design.
- Any existing infrastructure that would complement & support the objectives of the conduit network.
- Any information provided through stakeholder interviews from existing network maps, on-going projects, and potential wish list items that need to be constructed, capacity requirements for usage of colocation sites, and other critical information that will be used to help define the overall network design.
- Finalizing plans for future landing stations and colocation facilities.
- Determining the correct conduit and vault sizes.
- Materials and labor costs.
- Network architecture design.
- Cost modeling

2.28 What is the purpose of building new data centers & colocation sites on the island?

All proposed colocation and data center facilities will be built to provide non-discriminatory access to service providers, private and government entities, and other third-party organizations. To get a better understanding of what the main objective behind building this network is, please review Smart Island's Five-Year Action Plan for additional information.

<https://www.smartisland.pr.gov/documentos>

2.29 Who will determine route changes on the design?

The selected proponent will be responsible for determining if the routes require any aerial, underground or changes before construction. Any recommendations will need to be approved by the Puerto Rico Broadband Program and other relevant stakeholders.

2.30 Is there more defined information about the "construction management, testing, consulting, and advisory services" that are supposed to be included in the proposal?

No, these recommendations were simply a high level list of recommendations of services that a respondent could include in their proposal. The Puerto Rico Broadband Program is asking respondents to exercise their best judgement in creating a proposal to engineer and design an island-wide conduit network. Your proposal should showcase your firm and partners' collective technical expertise, innovative solutions for engineering and design, existing relationships on the island that could potentially remove barriers, and other factors that set your firm apart from other respondents.

2.31 Can you provide a map of the route that would potentially be covered? Or any distance estimates, an existing map that defines the old copper plant?

Please see attachments on the Smart Island website under the Telecommunications Conduit Design and Engineering Services RFP.

See link: <https://www.smartisland.pr.gov/rfps/telecommunications-conduit-design-and-engineering-services>

2.32 Is there an existing list of government parties that we will interface with, or will it be a SPOC "Single Point of Contact" that we funnel our correspondence through?

The selected proponent will be required to funnel all communications through Puerto Broadband Program and technical teams for correspondence.

2.33 Some of the technical requirements of this RFP include the selection of soon to be outdated technologies. Can a design firm propose more advanced and up to date technologies that are approved in the US? Is the government flexible in that regard?

Yes, it is recommended that the respondent propose a design and engineering solution using trusted technologies and innovative construction techniques. These proposed solutions should aim to enhance the long-term sustainability and broad utilization of the conduit network.

2.34 Where are the subsea landing stations going to be located? & Are there any existing subsea landing stations?

The submarine landing stations are currently being developed under a program funded by the US Treasury Capital Projects Fund. During the pre-construction phase the selected proponent will be working directly with Puerto Rico Broadband Program, technical advisors, and other stakeholders to design a conduit network. This design aims to find ways of incorporating other broadband infrastructure programs into utilizing the network to enhance network reliability and resiliency of broadband services

across the island. For more information, please see The Puerto Rico Five-Year Action Plan, and Puerto Rico BEAD Initial Proposal Vol 2.

2.35 For CAIs that are located near a proposed route. Is there a specific footage the PRBP is using to determine a "Near" network CAI?

No, the conduit network will be constructed as a Non-Deployment project under the NTIA's BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment) Program. According to BEAD Non-Deployment guidelines, subgrantees are not obligated to provide gigabit symmetrical service to nearby community anchor institutions. This project's goal is to complement existing federal programs particularly the FCC's Uniedo Program which aims to provide ubiquitous broadband coverage across Puerto Rico. During the Pre-Construction Planning Phase and Subgrantee Selection Phase under BEAD, stakeholders and respondents will be able to propose projects that can facilitate access to community anchor institutions internet that will be unserved by Uniendo or fall below the NTIA's speed requirements one gigabit symmetrical speeds. The attached list of CAIs was to serve as guide on the magnitude and reach of the overall conduit network. For additional information, please review Smart Island's BEAD Initial Proposals Vol 1 & 2, Section 2.1-2.3 in the RFP, and the FCC's Uniendo Program.

2.36 To prepare the proposal, what construction budget should we consider for the program?

"The respondent will finalize the construction budget during the Engineering Phase (Final Phase) of the project. The culmination of this engagement will involve creating an LLD, as defined in Section 2.3.3 of this RFP), a detailed plan that intricately incorporates all specifications and associated costs. This LLD will be the foundational document for developing a Bill of Materials and construction elements, critical components for obtaining final budget approvals.

For additional information, please review Smart Island's BEAD Initial Proposals Vol 1 & 2, Section 2.1-2.3 in the RFP "

2.37 What are the locations in the table for PR_CAI_List 11_22_23.xlsx?

The Excel file highlights CAI's that have been identified by the Puerto Rico Broadband Program as areas of interest and need for the residents of Puerto Rico. This is not an exhaustive list and is used for reference. Please see Section 2.3 for additional information on Community Anchor Institutions.

2.38 How the PRBP will manage the construction bids packages and publication, by individual bids documents or bids documents with a group of projects?

The respondent will provide guidance to the Puerto Rico Broadband Office and BEAD Grant Administrator during the Construction Phase of the project and will not be required to develop construction bid packages. This responsibility will fall onto the sole conduit subgrantee under the BEAD Non-Deployment Conduit System program. The respondent may, however, need to provide on-going engineering support to the subgrantee which will be covered under Post Plan Final Support.

2.39 During the construction phase, Will the PRBP hire full-time basis or part-time resident inspection firms to monitor the projects?

Yes, the Puerto Rico Broadband Program and the BEAD Grant Administrator will be responsible for putting together post award monitoring and inspection programs in place to monitor construction progress, QA/QC, and BEAD subgrantee funding reimbursement. For additional information please see the Puerto Rico's BEAD Initial Proposal Vol 2 Req. 9 Non-Deployment, Req 10. Implementation Activities, Req. 19 Compliance.

2.40 Who will be responsible as a designated inspector before OGPe for obtaining the construction permit and/or use permit?

The conduit subgrantee will be responsible for obtaining any construction permit / use permit and will be required to provide copies to the Puerto Rico Broadband Program and its technical advisors any DOT permits, any other applicable permits, clearances, applicable Dig Once Notifications, pole attachment agreements, and applicable bonds as well. Should the conduit subgrantee's project occur on private property or property outside of the ROW. Additionally, the selected proponent may be requested to support the conduit subgrantee or Puerto Rico Broadband Office with permit related issues throughout the course of the project.

Please see Puerto Rico's BEAD Initial Proposal for Vol 2. for additional information.

2.41 There is a requirement to pull "all the required construction permits" within the "Design phase." Shouldn't this task be part of the Engineering Phase? Once the final designs become available, these shall be part of the Construction Permit package.

Yes, all permit packages will be put together during the construction phase of the project. This phase will be rolling and will depend on when prior dependencies receive approval and sign off to move forward with permitting.

The conduit subgrantee will be responsible for managing and maintaining the physical conduit infrastructure. The owner could be any interested party participating in the BEAD Non-Deployment Subgrantee Selection Process.

2.42 For the construction permit and FCC frequency licensing processes, which Government Entity will act as the owner of the infrastructure?

FCC frequency owner will be under the owner of the lit service provider offering services to interested parties and subscribers.

2.43 Who will be responsible for paying the fees required by OGPe and the Autonomous Municipalities for the submission and approval of the necessary permits for the project?

The entity initiating and filing for the permit applications will be responsible for covering all fees associated with the submission and approval of permits from OGPe and the Autonomous Municipalities. Following permit clearances, the entity will need participate in a receipt reimbursement program to capture any expenses incurred during the project. When putting together your project proposal, all costs associated filing the permits should be documented.

2.44 Who is responsible for performing special studies and/or services, such as Hazardous Materials Testing and Removal, Soil Test, Archeological, etc.?

Under the terms and conditions of the NTIA's BEAD Program, all projects are required to follow both federal and local environmental compliance and permitting regulations. This includes compliance with Environmental Policy Act (NEPA/ SHPA), Permit Management Office (OGPe) of Puerto Rico, and any local regulations and requirements and details need to receive approval before moving forward with any BEAD construction activities. The selected proponent will work directly with the Puerto Rico Broadband Program, BEAD Grant Administrator and conduit subgrantee while performing an environmental review assessment of the project. This work can be performed either using an in-house environmental engineers or using a third party engineering firm. All costs related to this work should be factored into your proposal's Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) cost estimate and will be used as part of the BEAD Non-Deployment Subgrantee Selection process. For more information, please see the Puerto Rico Smart Island Vol 2 Initial Proposal & 5 Year Action Plan.

2.45 What is the estimated number of interviews with stakeholders and community anchor institutions that will be required by the PRBP in the pre-Construction phase?

This will depend on the level participation received from government parties, service providers, and other broadband stakeholders. During the pre-construction phase the selected proponent should be working closely with the Puerto Rico Broadband Office, BEAD Grant Administrator, and other technical advisors on a developing a strategy that encourages participation in this phase and to delivery valuable feedback that will form the foundation for your high level design, operations, and services for the conduit network.

2.46 What is the total amount of funding PRBP plans to spend on design, engineering, and construction for the entire network?

Funding sources for this project will come from three different programs. All engineering and design funding related to the conduit network will be covered under the Puerto Rico Broadband Infrastructure Fund (PRBIF). The conduit network construction and a portion of engineering will be funded through the NTIA's BEAD Program. All engineering, design and construction related to the subsea landing stations will be funded through the Capital Projects Fund (CPF). Please see Puerto Rico's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2 for additional information.

2.47 What will be the contract duration that we should consider for the economic offer or budget?

The respondent is required to provide a high-level cost estimate for planning, designing, permitting, and engineering, an island wide conduit system to the best of their knowledge. This work is expected to be completed prior to the end of the third (3rd) quarter of 2024. Additionally, the respondent shall provide costs for Project Management, Post Final Plan, and Incidental Support for on-going assistance during the construction and post construction phases of the conduit network which could extend through the IJJA BEAD period of performance which could run for up to four (4) years after subgrantee (network owner/operator) selection. Please see Section 2 for additional details and Section III Proposal Contents and Organization 3.5 for evaluation criteria

2.48 What details need to be provided for the "initial soil description" in the narrative description of each route in the "construction segments"? Will the PRBP require a professional environmental engineer to do these soil descriptions?

Under the terms and conditions of the NTIA's BEAD Program, all projects are required to follow both federal and local environmental compliance and permitting regulations. This includes compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Permit Management Office (OGPe) of Puerto Rico, and any local regulations and requirements and details needed to receive approval to move forward with construction. The selected Proponent will work directly with the Puerto Rico Broadband Program and awarded subgrantee while performing an environmental review assessment of the project. This work can be performed either using an in-house environmental engineers or using a third party engineering firm. For more information, please see the Puerto Rico Smart Island Vol 2 Initial Proposal & 5 Year Action Plan.

2.49 Will the PRBP provide a list of all the current service providers, relevant stakeholders, and community anchor institutions (schools, libraries, healthcare providers), etc. and their capacity requirements? If so, is that list already available?

You can refer to the attached excel spreadsheet accompanying this RFP for full list of community anchor institutions. Please see Puerto Rico's Five Year Action plan for a list of active service providers operating on the island.

2.50 Will applying for the Design and Engineering RFP automatically exclude a company from bidding for the construction? Or can this still be evaluated later?

The Puerto Rico Broadband Program acknowledges the importance of a separation of these two roles. The engineering firm contracted to provide conduit network design services is not eligible for participation in the bidding process for conduit construction. Please see Question 4.3 in the FAQ document

2.51 What will be the exact tasks and the amount of involvement of the design company in the construction phase?

The selected Proponent will be required to funnel all communications through the Puerto Rico Broadband Program and technical teams for correspondence.

2.52 Is there an existing list of ISP "Internet Service Providers" to include what their colocation port counts requirements will be at the aggregation sites, to determine fiber cable/strand capacity.

Please see Puerto Rico Broadband Program's Five-Year Action Plan lays out Puerto Rico's existing telecom landscape, including residential and business Internet Service Providers.

3. Proposal Submission Requirements

3.1 What is the due date of the RFP?

The proposal must be submitted no later than January 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM, Eastern Standard Time.

3.2 What happens if I submit my proposal after January 10, 2024?

Any proposal delivered after the Proposal Due Date shall be considered late, rejected, and could be returned to the respondent, subject to the Government Parties disclaimers and reservation of rights levied in [Section 6](#) of the RFP. The Government Parties assume no responsibility for deliveries made or attempted outside of the times specified above, late deliveries or the method of delivery chosen by the Proponent.

3.3 Can I submit my application in Spanish?

No, all proposals shall be prepared in English. All prices quoted shall be in United States dollars. The Government Parties shall not accept any proposal or modification of a proposal delivered by telephonic, electronic, or facsimile means, except as provided herein.

3.4 Where do I upload my application?

All proposals shall be electronically submitted through the Smart Island portal platform, as specified in the Cover Letter of the RFP: smartisland.pr.gov/rfps

The subject on the electronic submittal shall read as follows:

Re: 'Proposal for Telecommunications Conduit Design and Engineering Services'

3.5 How should I format my proposal?

Format:

- Proposals should be formatted in a searchable PDF digital format, bookmarked for ease of navigation.

File Size:

- PDF should not exceed over 10Mbs. In cases where the file size exceeds 10Mbs, Proponents can submit documents through a reliable and protected document sharing platform (e.g., Dropbox, G Suite Google Drive, Microsoft One Drive, Bow Business, Citrix Share File), as long as: submission is completed before the Proposal Due Date, and the Cover Letter – referenced in **Section 3.3.1** of the RFP – clearly and explicitly mentions this.

Paper Size:

- All applications should be submitted using portrait 8.5x11 page sizes.
- 11x17 page sizes are allowed for exhibits, maps, schematics, drawings, and schedules.

Page Numbers & Font

- Proposals shall have all pages numbered consecutively within each section of the proposal, other than required forms which shall be individually numbered, including any 11" x 17" pages and must conform to the page limitations identified in the RFP.
- Proposals must be presented in Arial (not Arial Narrow), 12-point font, including in diagrams, organizational charts, and other such graphics.

3.6 What sections need to be included in my proposal submission?

In total, the application must include the following eleven (11) sections.

| Section | Description |
|-----------|---|
| Section A | Cover Letter & Executive Summary |
| Section B | Background on Firm & Team Qualifications |
| Section C | Availability of Resources |
| Section D | Work Plan |
| Section E | Local Engagement Approach |
| Section F | Project Experience & References |
| Section G | Budget Breakdown |
| Section H | Financial Information |
| Section I | Unique or Unusual Respondent Capabilities |
| Section J | Other Matters Deemed Relevant by Respondent |
| Section K | Compliance Forms |

3.7 Can I submit an application as a joint venture with another firm?

No, the Government Parties will not accept proposals from joint ventures, consortiums, syndicates, professional pools, nor entities with similar arrangements, under the RFP. Subcontracting, however, may be allowed, subject to prior approval from the Government Parties.

3.8 Can I submit tax returns in lieu of audited financial statements?

No, per section 3.3.9, respondents must provide audited financial statements for the last three (3) fiscal years, demonstrating management of resources and the financial capability to perform the Scope of Work, as determined by the Government Parties. Financial statements must include the following: Opinion Letter (i.e., Auditor's Report), Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and the corresponding footnotes. Furthermore, financial statements must be prepared in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("US-GAAP"), or International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS;" the latter, only for applicable entities). Under no circumstances will the Government Parties accept audited financial statements prior to the calendar year 2020.

3.9 Do I have to disclose any prior or pending material changes in my financial condition?

Yes, per section 3.3.8, respondents must disclose when 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 Scope of Works, and the projected full extent of the changes likely to be experienced in the periods ahead. Where a material change will have a negative impact, the affected entity shall also provide a discussion of measures that would be undertaken to insulate the potential project(s) object of the RFP from any recent material changes, and those currently in progress or anticipated in the future. **Respondents that fail to disclose any pending or prior material change in their financial condition may result in disqualification from further participation in the selection process.**

3.10 What is considered a material change?

Government Parties consider material changes in financial condition any of the following: (1) an event of default or bankruptcy involving the affected entity; (2) a change in credit rating (if applicable) for the affected entity; (3) inability to meet conditions of loan or debt covenants by the affected entity.

3.11 In the appendix section of the RFP. Do attachments C and D need to be notarized by a notary in Puerto Rico?

Yes, all documents should be notarized by a licensed notary within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

4 RFP General Terms and Conditions

4.1 What are the important dates for the RFP?

| Date | Activity |
|---------------------|--|
| December 22, 2023 | Last date for submission of questions or requests for clarifications to the RFP. |
| January 24, 2024 | Proposals due to the Government Parties |
| February 14, 2024** | Complete evaluation of proposals and issue notices to Selected Proponent. |

4.2 Where do I send my questions related to the RFP?

All questions concerning the RFP should be sent via email to prbif@smartisland.pr.gov.

4.3 If I am awarded the Telecommunications Conduit Design and Engineering Service RFP, can I participate in the subsequent RFP to construct and operate the open access conduit network?

No, respondents are hereby advised that the selected proponent under the RFP will be prohibited to participate in any subsequent procurement procedures for performing construction and operation work activities for the Construction Phase defined in Section 2.2 of the RFP, given that the Government Parties will consider any contract executed pursuant to the RFP as Other Government Contracts, as defined herein. These prohibitions apply also to all subcontractors, team members, and representatives of all respondents performing the work under the selected proponent.

Selected proponents will be permitted to participate in subsequent procurement procedures for construction management and project management work activities during the Construction Phase.

4.4 I have certifications that are expiring. When do I need to have my certifications renewed?

All certifications must be current, that is, issued within thirty (30) days from the date the Selected Proponent executes the contract with the Government Parties.

4.5 Will projects within private entities be considered as valid experience?

Yes, all relevant work experience related to the scope of work whether with public or private entities will be evaluated and scored during the Compliance Evaluation.

4.6 Will international experience be accounted for in this bid? Will references from similar projects that have been conducted by a proponent outside Puerto Rico be accepted?

Yes, all relevant work experience related the Scope of Work whether with public, private, or international entities will be evaluated and scored during the Compliance Evaluation.

4.7 Are there any certifications, licenses and/or registrations required that are not listed in the RFP? If so, please provide the names of such certifications and registrations. If certain certifications cannot be obtained by January 10 - can they be submitted later ?

The Puerto Rico Broadband Program does not have any specific requirements for technical certifications. However, all Respondents will be evaluated under Section 3.3.2: Background on Firm & Team Qualifications. Respondents must demonstrate it has a staff and/or a team of experienced professionals and a dynamic collaborators network that includes a broad range of organizations, relative to the Scope of Work.

4.8 Section 3.3.2 Do we need to get the subcontracting permission from the government during the RFP process or prior to starting the actual work after the RFP is awarded?

The selected Proponent will be required to submit an approval letter specifying the level of support required needed from subcontractor(s) and complete the requirement under Section 3.3.2 Section B. It is recommended that the Proponent finalize any sub-contracting agreements during the Award / Contract Phase. If the Proponent needs additional time or wishes to start the process earlier, please inform the Puerto Rico Broadband Program.

4.9 50% of the personnel has to be completely fluent in Spanish" - is this flexible?

While not a strict requirement, it is recommended that a portion of your staff can speak fluently in Spanish, given the prevailing business landscape in Puerto Rico. Spanish is the primary language spoken on the island, and it is common for firms and government agencies to conduct meetings in Spanish.

4.10 Will the selected proponent be required to provide the RUP issued by the ASG?

Yes, As stated in the Cover Letter of the RFP: 'All respondents must comply with the procurement requirements set forth by the Puerto Rico General Services Administration ("ASG", for its Spanish acronym) pursuant to Act No. 73-2019, as amended, including, but not limited to the 'Regulation on the Sole Registry of Bidders of the Government of Puerto Rico', Regulation No. 9301E, issued on August 26, 2021'. Please see Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work, 4.5 Further Contract Conditions, and 4.6 General Federal Funds Requirements for additional information regarding certifications and licenses.

4.11 If a company is not registered to do business within Puerto Rico, but registers with the proper agencies, will that company still be considered a strong candidate?

Yes, but if awarded the RFP, the selected proponent will need have all certifications and licenses current or within thirty (30) days from the date of the executed grant agreement. All respondents must comply with the procurement requirements set forth by the Puerto Rico General Services Administration ("ASG," for its Spanish acronym). Please see the Cover Letter and Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work, 4.5 Further Contract Conditions, and 4.6 General Federal Funds Requirements for additional information regarding certifications and licenses.

4.12 Can a foreign entity registered in Puerto Rico apply for this bid?

Yes, foreign entities can apply for this RFP, but will be required to register with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's Department of State. All entities performing any service are required to register for Professional Services Certification (RUP) under Act No. 73-2019. All entities providing engineering, surveying and/or architecture services in Puerto Rico must comply with the professional requirements set forth in Act No. 173-1988. Please see Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work, 4.5 Further Contract Conditions, and 4.6 General Federal Funds Requirements for additional information or visit the Department of State website for more information.

4.13 Are the owners of the proponent required to be licensed engineers in Puerto Rico?

There is no strict requirement to have a local engineer working on the project. However, all entities providing engineering, surveying and/or architecture services in Puerto Rico must comply with the professional requirements set forth in Act No. 173-1988. Please see Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work, 4.5 Further Contract Conditions, and 4.6 General Federal Funds Requirements for additional information. Also visit the Department of State website for more information.

4.14 Will proponent's engineering license from outside of Puerto Rico be accepted?

Yes, but the respondent will still need to register with the State Department of Puerto Rico to receive a Conditional or Comity License. Please review Act No. 173-1988, as amended (known as the Law of the Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico), and applicable regulations issued thereunder (by the College of Architects and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico). Please see State Department website - <https://www.statedepartment.pr.gov/juntas-examinadoras/engineers-and-surveyors-of-puerto-rico>

4.15 If a proponent is a foreign entity and decides to work with local engineering firm - will this satisfy the engineering license requirements? How should the agreement between an engineering firm and a proponent be structured in order to be acceptable by the government?

The engineering license requirements for the Services requested under the RFP are those set forth in Act No. 173-1988, as amended (known as the Law of the Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico), and applicable regulations issued thereunder (by the College of Architects and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico and/or other relevant professional guilds). Please see Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work and 4.6 General Funds Requirements of the RFP for additional information.

4.16 *If no local engineering firm participates in this RFP would you apply an exemption to this requirement (if applicable)?*

No, due to procurement guidelines outlined under Act No. 73-2019. All entities providing engineering, surveying and/or architecture services in Puerto Rico must comply with the professional requirements set forth in Act No. 173-1988. Please see Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work, 4.5 Further Contract Conditions, and 4.6 General Federal Funds Requirements for additional information. Also visit the Department of State website for more information.

4.17 *If a foreign entity decides to work with licensed and certified subcontractors in PR - can their qualifications transfer to the proponent? What steps should be taken to receive approval to use subcontractors?*

Yes, but for clarity, any firm offering engineering, surveying and/or architecture services in Puerto Rico must comply with the professional requirements set forth in Act No. 173-1988. The selected proponent must have the "All certifications must be current, that is, issued within thirty (30) days from the date the Selected Proponent executes the contract with the Government Parties." Please see Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work, 4.5 Further Contract Conditions, and 4.6 General Federal Funds Requirements for additional information or visit the Department of State website for more information.

If the respondent is planning to use subcontractors, they must expressly indicate that in their proposal.

4.18 *Are there any certifications, licenses and/or registrations required that are not listed in the RFP? If so, please provide the names of such certifications and registrations. If certain certifications cannot be obtained by January 10 - can they be submitted later ?*

If awarded the RFP, the selected Proponent must have all certifications current within thirty (30) days from the date of the executed grant agreement. Please see the Cover Letter and Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work, 4.5 Further Contract Conditions, and 4.6 General Federal Funds Requirements for detailed information regarding certifications and licenses. During the Compliance and Technical Review process, all firms will undergo an evaluation based on their firm's qualifications and technical capabilities, business engagement on the island, good standing with government entities, and compliance with laws and licenses required for work on the island.

4.19 *How does the agency prefer pricing for the project? An annual lump sum, monthly lump sum, lump sum for the segments of an executed contract period, or a blended hourly rate for all labor categories supporting each stage of the contract along with hourly rates specified for each phase of the contract?*

As indicated in Section 3.3.7 of the RFP, Section G: Budget Breakdown: ' Respondents should also show a breakdown of their fees depending on sections of the potential engagement or the fees for conducting specific tasks. Based on respondent's Work Plan, their estimated budget must outline the cost breakdown and fee structure anticipated to fulfill the Scope of Work, as well as any technical, financial, legal, or other additional advisory services that respondent plans to subcontract, pursuant to Section 3.3.4 of this RFP. Respondents are advised that payments under the potential contract that could be awarded pursuant to this RFP, could be scheduled in the form of 'task-orders.' In the event such

contract is awarded, respondents are advised that their budget breakdown and/or proposed pricing structure could be updated/adjusted following well-grounded market conditions.”

4.20 The RFP mentions “ Respondents need to provide Financial Statements for the last 3 fiscal years done according to US regulations.” Will financial statements from European Union be sufficient to fulfill this requirement?

As indicated in Section 3.3.8 of the RFP, Section H: Financial Information: ‘Furthermore, financial statements must be prepared in accordance with U.S. General Accepted Accounting Principles (“US-GAAP”), or International financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS;” the latter, only for applicable entities).’ Hence, if no US-GAAP audited financial statements are available from a European respondent, it must submit their financial statements following IFRS requirements. Please see Sections 2.5 Available Funding for the Scope of Work and 4.6 General Funds Requirements of the RFP for additional information.

5 Proposal Evaluation Procedures and Criteria

5.1 What are the steps in the review process for the RFP?

While evaluating proposals, the two steps in the review process include:

- Compliance Evaluation Committee Review
- Technical Evaluation Committee Review

5.2 What is the Compliance Evaluation Committee Review?

While evaluating proposals during the Compliance Evaluation Review, the Government Parties will appoint a Compliance Evaluation Committee that will assess proposals based on completeness and compliance with the general guidelines of the RFP and criteria laid out in Exhibit 1. For an application to be passed onto the Technical Evaluation Committee Review, the proposal must score 75 points or higher. If the application fails to meet the minimum requirement of 75 points, that application will be disqualified and will not be considered for the Technical Evaluation Committee Review. Below is a high-level summary of the scoring criteria requirements from Exhibit A.

I. General Format & Submission Requirements:

1. Proposal received before the Proposal Due Date
2. Proposal compliance with the Format Requirements (Sec. 3.2)
3. Proposal responsiveness to the RFP General Requirements (Sec. 5.2)

II. Public Policy and Engagement in Puerto Rico:

1. Proponent's added value to the public policy of Act 42-2018 (Sec. 3.3.2)
2. Proponent is dully registered and/or already doing business in Puerto Rico (Sec. 3.3.2)

III. Proposal Contents and Organization:

1. Cover Letter & Executive Summary (Sec. 3.3.1)
2. Firm Background & Team Qualifications (Sec. 3.3.2)
3. Availability of Resources (Sec. 3.3.3)
4. Work Plan (Sec. 3.3.4)
5. Local Engagement Approach (Sec. 3.3.5)
6. Scope of Work/Services Experience & References (Sec. 3.3.6)
7. Budget Breakdown (Sec. 3.3.7)
8. Financial Information (Sec. 3.3.8)

IV. Compliance Forms:

1. Attachment A – Target Locations Template
2. Attachment B – Experience Template
3. Attachment C – Non-Collusion Affidavit
4. Was Attachment D – Eligibility Affidavit

5.3 What is the Technical Evaluation Committee Review?

All proposals that passed the Compliance Evaluation Committee Review will advance to Technical Evaluation Committee Review, where applications will be scored and evaluated using the scoring criteria laid out in Exhibit B. Upon completion of the review, points from both evaluation reviews will be totaled to generate an overall score and ranking. If necessary, any adjustments made to the final scores will be approved by the Puerto Rico Broadband Program. Please see evaluation criteria from Exhibit B.

I. General Format & Submission Requirements:

1. Proposal received before the Proposal Due Date
2. Proposal compliance with the Format Requirements (Sec. 3.2)
3. Proposal responsiveness to the RFP General Requirements (Sec. 5.2)

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3. Availability of Resources (Sec. 3.3.3)
4. Work Plan (Sec. 3.3.4)
5. Local Engagement Approach (Sec. 3.3.5)
6. Scope of Work/Services Experience & References (Sec. 3.3.6)
7. Budget Breakdown (Sec. 3.3.7)
8. Financial Information (Sec. 3.3.8)

IV. Compliance Forms:

1. Attachment A – Target Locations Template
2. Attachment B – Experience Template
3. Attachment C – Non-Collusion Affidavit
4. Was Attachment D – Eligibility Affidavit

5.4 What evaluation criteria will be reviewed during the evaluation period?

Government Parties scoring criteria will reflect a preference for proposals that address and prioritize the following:

- Proposed network systems that maximize cost effectiveness by incorporating into the proposed design: vacant existing underground infrastructure opportunities, IRU or dark fiber opportunities, as well as identifying any other potential underground pathway opportunities.
- Well vetted recommendations for alternative network design and implementation cost-saving measures that do not compromise network effectiveness or contradict the PUERTO RICO BROADBAND PROGRAM’s core network directives.
- Proposed network systems that facilitate routing to accommodate community anchor institutions.
- Leveraged experience designing on similar scale projects and solid proven history collaborating with the Commonwealth, or other State and Federal government entities.

5.5 In the appendix section of the RFP - Exhibit 2 page 42, III. Financial Review: Budget and Cost Effectiveness, read as follows: “Cost-effectiveness of the proposed solution about the project scope, considering long-term maintenance costs.” Please, define what would be an acceptable and/or expected term.

The expected term is in two parts. Part one (1) is the full execution of the low level design including all necessary preliminary work to accomplish the low level design. This work is expected to be completed prior to the end of the third (3rd) quarter of 2024. Additionally, respondents are required to provide a list of unit rates of services for on-going support after fulfilling the required scope elements as outlined in the RFP which could extend through the IJA BEAD period of performance which could run for up to four (4) years after subgrantee (network owner/operator) selection.

6 Disclosures:
