



Government of Puerto Rico
Office of Management and Budget

Resilient Power and Hardening of Telecommunications Facilities Across Puerto Rico - Phase I

Request for Proposals

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Introduction

The Government of Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is seeking responses from qualified vendors (Respondents) to design and implement resilient power systems and hardened infrastructure for telecommunications facilities in Puerto Rico. The Program's goal is to facilitate reliable, resilient power and hardened infrastructure to key telecommunications facilities to minimize the loss of internet and telecommunications connectivity to Puerto Ricans. This is Phase I of this hardening and resilient power RFP and is intended for "shovel ready" projects that can be implemented rapidly. There will be subsequent phases of this initiative for projects not yet shovel ready. The OMB is administering \$15 million in this initial round of funding to successful Respondents.

Telecommunications infrastructure in Puerto Rico faces significant challenges due to frequent storms and commercial electrical grid reliability. Maintaining broadband connectivity during storms is of the utmost importance. When disasters strike, people need to stay connected to critical information and emergency services. A reliable broadband connection can make all the difference in ensuring the safety and well-being of those affected by these events. It is crucial to prioritize the development of resilient power and hardened infrastructure that can withstand these challenges and keep our communities connected, informed, and safe.

The OMB is issuing this RFP to solicit proposals from interested Respondents to provide resilient power and infrastructure hardening solutions. The OMB seeks innovative solutions that can support more resilient and redundant networks that can withstand future storms and electrical grid outages, ultimately improving the overall quality of internet connectivity of Puerto Ricans – especially in times of disaster. Also covered under this grant program is security infrastructure for key telecommunications sites.

The OMB invites interested parties to submit their responses to this RFP, which should include details on the use of funds, as well as any innovative solutions, if awarded by the OMB. If a Respondent is selected for grant funding in this round of funding, the OMB will contact the appropriate individual to communicate any further information required.

The deadline for this RFP is June 19, 2023. Please send any queries to FAQ@smartisland.pr.gov.

Funding Mechanism

Funding for this hardening and resilient power grant program will come from the Puerto Rico Broadband Program, under the OMB. The Puerto Rico Broadband Program was created by the Governor Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi through Executive Order 2022-40 on July 11, 2022. The primary purpose of this program is to coordinate, authorize, and execute the disbursement of local and federal funds assigned to the construction of broadband infrastructure in Puerto Rico. Grant funds will be made available from the local Puerto Rico Broadband Infrastructure Fund, appropriated by the OMB and AAFAF to complement federal programs.

OMB will provide grants that support the design, construction, and deployment of hardened infrastructure and resilient power systems as detailed in the scope of work.



This grant program does not require matching funds.

Funding Disbursement

Funding will be disbursed to successful Applicants based on their annual gross income generated from the sale of services, as reported in the Applicant's Hacienda Corporate Tax filing. The total amount of funds available (up to \$15M) will be proportioned or distributed to grantees based on their gross income generated from the sale of services. The amount of funds available to each grantee will be dependent on the number of applications submitted and approved.

Scope of Work

Respondents shall provide a detailed description of their resilient power and hardening proposals on a per-site basis. Respondents will be provided an MS Excel based Program Workbook and a MS Word based Program Response Template to facilitate their response, and additional documents can be uploaded to further support the response. Proposals may include the following:

- Details on the design and installation of resilient power and infrastructure hardening solutions that can provide uninterrupted power to telecommunication facilities.
- Details on the design and installation of an automatic resilient power system with automatic failover when the primary power supply fails.
- Details on the provision of adequate fuel storage and distribution systems that can provide fuel for resilient power systems with a minimum capacity of 10 days of continuous operations.
- Details on the implementation and operation of monitoring and control systems that can remotely monitor the performance of the power infrastructure and detect any issues before they cause service disruptions.
- Details on the development and execution of training for Respondent's technical staff on the operation and maintenance of the resilient power infrastructure.
- Details on the design and implementation of telecommunications site security infrastructure.
- Details on how Respondent would provide OMB with documentation and reporting on the progress of the project, including regular updates on the design, implementation, and testing phases.
- Details of Respondents' network infrastructure and footprint of coverage area that will be hardened.
- Provide location and additional details of the infrastructure hardening.

Requirements

Respondents must meet the following requirements:



- Have registered and active status with the Puerto Rico Department of State.
- Have a minimum of three years of incorporated status with good standing.
- 5 years Corporate Tax filing 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022. Companies registered less than 5 years will need to have all filings up to date.
- Certificate of No Debt from PR Department of Treasury.
- Should be register with the Telecommunications Bureau (Negociado de Telecomunicaciones - NET), if currently not, should provide proof of registration process with the NET.
- Registration with PRITS in the Technology Provider Registry.
- Have an active RUP from the General Service Agency.
- Complete Response Template.
- Complete Program Workbook.
- Upload required documents as attachments with response.
- Projects will need to be completed within 18 months.
- Respondents that are retail internet service providers to residential customers must be participants in the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Respondents that do not provide retail service to residential customers do not have to participate in the ACP program.

Proposal Submission

Respondents should submit their responses to the smartisland.pr.gov website, including the following:

- A site-by-site list of locations that will receive resilient power and/or hardened infrastructure (entered into the Program Workbook, and further described in the Program Response Template).
- A detailed technical proposal that outlines the design, implementation, and testing phases of the project (entered into the Program Response Template).
- A detailed project plan, including timelines and milestones (entered into the Program Response Template).
- A cost breakdown that includes all expenses, such as materials, labor, and any additional costs (entered into the supplied Program Workbook).
- References from previous clients, including contact information (entered into the Program Response Template, or as attachments).
- Required documents as attachments to response.
- Additional supporting documentation added to the proposal as uploaded attachments. Respondents should also upload any GIS information that would be helpful to describe the proposed scope of work, particularly path layers for any undergrounded cabling.

Response Evaluation

Responses to this RFP will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Compliance with the requirements outlined in this RFP.
- Technical approach and design of the resilient power and hardened infrastructure systems.



- Reliability and resilience of the proposed solution.
- Cost-effectiveness of the proposed solution.
- Experience and qualifications of the Respondent and their team.
- References from previous clients or working relationships.

Selection Process

A committee of OMB staff and/or consultants will review the proposals and evaluate them based on the aforementioned criteria. OMB and its staff and consultants reserve the right to request additional information from Respondents on an as-needed basis during the evaluation process. Following this, OMB may enter into negotiations with the Respondent to expand or contract the scope of work and adjust the grant amount accordingly.

Eligible Expenses

If granted an award, respondents may utilize grant funds to:

- Purchase or upgrade of equipment designed to provide resilient power.
- Purchase or upgrade of equipment designed to provide hardened infrastructure.
- Purchase or upgrade of electrical equipment designed to assist in disaster response recovery.
- Undergrounding of existing aerial infrastructure, including fiber and electrical, to improve resilient and redundant infrastructure.
- Design and engineering of resilient power systems and hardened infrastructure.
- Labor for the installation of resilient power systems and hardened infrastructure.
- Materials and labor for telecommunications site security systems.
- Other incurred expenses as approved by the Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget.

Ineligible Expenses

The following costs are ineligible for grant funding:

- Internal administrative activities.
- Fundraising activities.
- Computers or office equipment.
- Software, such as management or accounting software.
- Vehicles.
- Equipment owned or leased by the customer, including routers and modems, and any other costs beyond the network interface point.
- Operating expenses.
- Expenses incurred prior to the date of the grant award contract execution by all parties.
- Leases of less than one year.
- Acquisition of any spectrum licenses.
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments, or other debt service costs.



- Fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt.
- Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding.

Timeline

The following is the proposed timeline for this project:

- Review (rolling-basis) of responses begin: May 11, 2023
- Proposal submission deadline: June 2, 2023
- Vendor selection and notification (begins): June 16, 2023