

Answered Questions for RFP No. DSP-RFP-2025-005. A&E Puerto Rico Public Safety Warning and Communications Infrastructure Project (PRPSWCI)

Questions:	Answers:
Please clarify the following: Will the Proposal and the Acceptance Form be submitted via email and in person?	No, it is not necessary to submit the proposal in person. Submission via email will be sufficient.
May I ask who the appropriate contact person is for addressing the proposal, or should it be directed to the committee?	The proposal should be addressed to the Proposals Evaluation Committee.
Due to the complexity of the proposal, we respectfully request an extension of time for its submission.	We will take into consideration the extension of time for proposal submission. Should there be any changes, you will be notified.
Please clarify the following: What is the expected date for receiving the responses to the questions?	The questions will be answered as they are received, at the earliest possible time. Your questions were received on August 11 and were answered on August 12.
Please confirm that the documents referenced in Circular Letter No. 1300-16-16 are for informational purposes only, and that the awarded bidder will be responsible for submitting those documents.	The awarded bidder will be responsible for submitting the documents referenced in Circular Letter No. 1300-16-16 to the Contracts Division when the contracting process is underway.
Please provide the Proposal Cost Form.	The Proposal Cost Form is not provided. It should be prepared and submitted by the bidder in accordance with what they deem necessary.
The RFP indicates that the “ATC Hazards by Location” should be used. The “ATC Hazards by Location” from the “ATC Council” ceased operations in December 2024. Currently, the “Hazard Tool” from ASCE is used. Should we consider the ASCE “Hazard Tool” for the design?	Use the most current, authoritative hazard data source available. If the “ATC Hazards by Location” tool is unavailable, the ASCE “Hazard Tool” or an equivalent nationally recognized source may be used, provided it meets or exceeds applicable code and standard requirements.

What is the total construction budget for this RFP?	This RFP is for A&E services only. No construction budget will be provided.
Do the sites require asbestos and lead testing? Who will assume the cost of these tests?	Testing requirements will depend on site conditions, structure age, and regulatory requirements. If required, testing will be coordinated with DPS. Unless otherwise directed, costs should be included in the bidder's proposal.
Are there any technical standards or additional guidelines beyond those indicated in this RFP that must be followed for the design and implementation of the LMR, PSAP, E911, and Outdoor Alert systems?	All systems must comply with applicable federal, state, and Puerto Rico laws, codes, and regulations, as well as relevant industry standards (e.g., APCO, NENA, NFPA, FCC). Any additional DPS-provided standards must also be followed.
Does the RFP have any appendixes?	No. Included in the RFP document you can find Puerto Rico Law No. 173-1988, as amended and the Circular Letter OC-26-01.
Will the required Radio coverage assessments be for each frequency band used by the different public safety agency (VHF, UHF, ETC.)?	Yes. Coverage assessments must be performed for each frequency band in use.
Will the radio coverage assessment reports be required for each location, per agency, or for each frequency band?	Reports must clearly delineate results per location, per agency (as applicable), and per frequency band.
Does the frequency licensure process include coordination, selection, and documentation to the FCC?	Yes. This includes frequency coordination, selection, and FCC documentation preparation.
If a proposed new site is not a constructed site, the deliverables need to include all the necessary studies and design for the telecom site construction (Tower, environmental studies, etc.)?	Yes. Deliverables must include all studies, permitting support, environmental reviews, and full design for construction of the site and tower.

<p>Why does the DSP specifically require a staff member on the A&E team to hold a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification? Would substantial project management experience, supported by formal education, be considered equivalent? Given that Witt O'Brien's is named as the Program Manager in the RFP (page 5), does this requirement risk redundancy? Would it not be more effective for the PMP credential to reside within the Program Management oversight team rather than the project design team?</p>	<p>The A&E contract is a distinct workstream within the broader PRPSWCI program. While Witt O'Brien's (WOB) serves as the overall Program Manager, the A&E contractor must manage its own scope, schedule, risk, quality, and day-to-day coordination across multiple technical disciplines and with Commonwealth stakeholders. Requiring project management capability within the A&E team is therefore not redundant; it ensures effective internal coordination and timely, high-quality deliverables that align with program governance. WOB's Program Manager holds a PMP (or higher) certification and provides overarching program oversight. For the A&E contractor, DSP will also consider and score proposals that demonstrate certifiable project management experience equal to or greater than the eligibility requirements for the PMP credential, supported by documentation (e.g., role descriptions, portfolio of relevant projects, and formal PM education/training).</p>
<p>The RFP (page 17) asks for one Motorola R56 certified grounding expert. Considering that the procurement specifies a vendor-neutral, standards-based design approach, why is a Motorola-specific credential required? Will DSP accept equivalent grounding and bonding certifications from other recognized organizations, to avoid the appearance of brand preference and ensure open competition?</p>	<p>R56 is a widely used set of installation standards and guidelines for communications sites (grounding, bonding, lightning protection, power, and related practices). It does not require Motorola-brand equipment; it sets performance and installation practices that promote safety, resilience, and consistency across sites. Specifying R56 is intended to ensure a well-recognized baseline—not to prefer any OEM. Accordingly, DSP will accept equivalent grounding/bonding certifications or training from recognized organizations that demonstrate substantially the same competencies, provided proposers document the equivalency of curriculum and practitioner competency.</p>
<p>The RFP requires three letters of recommendation (including at least one related to Outdoor Warning Systems). Would DSP accept project summaries that include current and verifiable client contact information as an alternative in cases where formal signed letters are logistically challenging? What is the core purpose—demonstration of technical capacity or independent client validation—when team</p>	<p>DSP will accept project summaries with verifiable client contact information in lieu of formal signed letters. Given the critical nature of this program, our preference is to identify firms that demonstrate both the stated capabilities and a proven, independently verifiable history delivering projects of similar scope and complexity. At minimum, each summary should identify the client/owner, project scope and the firm's role, period of</p>

resumes and references are already provided?	performance/current status, and a primary client contact (name, title, email, and phone). DSP reserves the right to contact references and request additional documentation if needed. The requirement that at least one reference pertain specifically to Outdoor Warning Systems remains in effect.
Could DSP explicitly reaffirm that the Prime contractor must comply with all requirements of Puerto Rico Law 173 (1988) and Circular OC-26-01, ensuring that only duly licensed and eligible firms and professionals participate in regulated services? This will help firms confirm their compliance strategies early in proposal preparation.	DSP reaffirms that the Prime contractor must comply with Puerto Rico Law 173 (1988) and Circular OC-26-01. All regulated A&E services for this contract must be performed, supervised, and signed/sealed by duly licensed professionals in Puerto Rico. Any subcontractor performing regulated A&E services must meet the same licensure requirements.
On page 23 (d), the RFP mandates in-building radio coverage testing (minimum 250 buildings) in accordance with NFPA 1221, DAQ 3.0 standards. Since Puerto Rico's first responders have access to the FirstNet broadband network and in-building penetration resources, is this extensive coverage testing still mandatory for all locations? Can the project leverage FirstNet's assets in place of, or as a supplement to, costly on-site testing as a means to control project costs while maintaining emergency coverage reliability?	DSP expects all proposals to fully comply with the RFP requirement for in-building radio coverage testing (minimum 250 buildings) to NFPA 1221 DAQ 3.0. Proposers should price and schedule accordingly. After selection/award, the successful proposer may present an alternative methodology for DSP's review (e.g., targeted sampling with validated modeling and/or use of third-party datasets) provided it meets or exceeds the RFP's technical intent, includes objective validation, and complies with applicable codes and standards. Unless and until DSP approves such an alternative post-award, the requirement remains as written.
Due to the complexity and breadth of the requirements, and to enable full compliance and responsive proposals, would DSP kindly consider a submission deadline extension of at least 7 days beyond the current August 21 date?	DSP has granted an extension to the proposal due date, as documented in Addendum 1 . Proposers must refer to Addendum 1 located in the DPS website, for the updated submission deadline and any related schedule adjustments.
Will DPS provide complete and up-to-date inventories, frequencies, site engineering drawings, and as-built diagrams for all existing LMR and OWS locations before fieldwork begins? Will access to secure/public safety facilities be facilitated directly by DPS, or must the contractor coordinate separately with each agency?	DPS and Program Management will provide any available records (e.g., inventories, frequency plans, site engineering drawings, as-builts, and related data) to the selected firm. Because the existing systems were deployed independently and over time, the accuracy and completeness of legacy documentation cannot be guaranteed. Verification of existing conditions—including performing field

	<p>inventories and analysis of the current systems—is included in the scope of work.</p> <p>DPS and Program Management will coordinate access to secure/public safety facilities and agencies. The selected firm will work as part of the broader project team—not in isolation—and should provide consolidated schedules, reasonable lead times, and required credentials so that access can be arranged in accordance with agency security procedures.</p>
<p>For drive and in-building testing, will DPS coordinate entry into secure facilities, such as police stations, correctional institutions, and critical infrastructure sites?</p> <p>Are there “non-testable” facilities that should instead be modeled rather than measured in the field?</p>	<p>Access to secure sites. DPS and Program Management will coordinate access to secure/public safety facilities (e.g., police stations, correctional institutions, critical infrastructure), consistent with agency security procedures. The selected firm will work as part of the broader project team and should provide consolidated schedules, reasonable lead times, and required credentials to facilitate entry.</p> <p>“Non-testable” facilities. For fairness and comparability, proposers should bid the scope of work as written, including field measurements where specified. After selection/award, if certain facilities cannot be practically or safely tested, the successful proposer may submit an alternative methodology (e.g., validated modeling) for DSP review and approval, provided it meets or exceeds the technical intent of the RFP.</p>
<p>Can DPS distinguish between A&E contractor’s project management responsibilities and those handled directly by the Program Manager to prevent duplication of effort?</p> <p>Will the Program Manager lead stakeholder scheduling, or is that solely the A&E contractor’s task?</p>	<p>Witt O’Brien’s (WOB) serves as the Program Manager, providing overall program and project management and subject-matter expertise to ensure that the A&E technical deliverables align with the needs of the PRPSWCI program. The A&E firm is responsible for managing its own contract-level activities (scope, schedule, risk, quality, and day-to-day coordination across its disciplines). To avoid duplication, WOB will finalize specific elements of the Program Management Plan after selection—such as roles/responsibilities (RACI), communications, schedule integration, and stakeholder coordination—tailored to the capabilities of the selected A&E firm.</p>

<p>Will DPS accept equivalent industry-recognized grounding/bonding training in lieu of Motorola R56, since the RFP requires vendor-agnostic designs?</p> <p>For acoustic modeling, Nord2000 is specified — will DPS accept equivalent modeling outputs if methodology matches FEMA best practices?</p>	<p>Grounding/bonding. Yes. DSP will accept equivalent grounding/bonding certifications or training from recognized organizations that demonstrate substantially the same competencies, provided proposers document the equivalency.</p> <p>Acoustic modeling. DSP specifies Nord2000 to provide a consistent, physics-based basis for outdoor sound-propagation predictions in Puerto Rico’s varied terrain and meteorological conditions. It is preferred because it treats meteorology explicitly (wind/temperature gradients/turbulence), supports octave/third-octave calculations and atmospheric absorption, handles complex terrain/land cover and barriers, enables calibration/auditability, and promotes comparability across sites and teams. Proposers should attempt to comply with Nord2000; however, DSP will consider a documented, technically equivalent propagation methodology. Any alternative must: (1) describe governing algorithms/assumptions (including meteorology, frequency bands, ground/terrain/barriers), (2) include a calibration/validation plan showing comparable accuracy against representative field measurements in Puerto Rico conditions, and (3) deliver model inputs/project files sufficient for technical audit. To maintain rigor and comparability for long-range siren planning, DSP does not prefer ISO 9613-2 used without documented meteorological treatment, CONCAWE, simplified inverse-square models, or vendor-proprietary “black-box” tools that cannot be reviewed/validated. Acceptance of alternatives is at DSP’s discretion and will be reflected in scoring.</p>
<p>Can FirstNet’s network testing data (in-building and outdoor) be used as a partial substitute for the NFPA 1221 DAQ coverage assessments?</p> <p>If alternative data is allowable, what validation would DPS require?</p>	<p>See the response to General Question 5 above. Proposals must comply with the RFP’s testing requirements; after award, the successful proposer may submit an alternative methodology for DSP’s review and approval that meets or exceeds the RFP’s technical intent with objective validation.</p>

<p>Must all maps, coverage models, and diagrams be deliverable in both PDF and original software format (e.g., .MDB, .KMZ, EDX, SoundPLAN files), or is PDF-only acceptable?</p> <p>Will DPS require GIS deliverables to comply with a specific coordinate system (e.g., NAD83, WGS-84)?</p>	<p>Formats. Provide (a) presentation-ready PDFs for all maps, models, and diagrams, and (b) the native/source project files used to produce them (e.g., acoustic model projects; RF modeling projects; CAD/DWG/DXF; and GIS data as GeoPackage or Esri file geodatabase). Include layer schema and a simple data dictionary for GIS layers.</p> <p>GIS packaging. Deliver geodata as GeoPackage (.gpkg) or Esri file geodatabase (.gdb) with complete metadata (projection, units, vertical reference, data lineage). Include KMZ/KML exports for quick, non-GIS viewing where applicable.</p> <p>Coordinate reference system. The authoritative project CRS for GIS deliverables shall be NAD83(2011) / Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands (SPCS, EPSG:6566). Provide a convenience copy of key layers in WGS84 (EPSG:4326) for interchange/overview use.</p>
<p>Apart from the redacted copy requirement, will DPS agree to NDA-level protection of sensitive infrastructure maps or frequency information in public records?</p>	<p>DSP must comply with Puerto Rico public-records requirements. To protect sensitive materials to the maximum extent permitted by law:</p> <p>Two-set submission. Provide (1) a public/redacted version and (2) an unredacted/restricted version for DSP's internal use.</p> <p>Clear markings. Mark each page/section you assert is protected (e.g., "CONFIDENTIAL—TRADE SECRET" or "SECURITY-SENSITIVE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE") and briefly explain the basis.</p> <p>Redaction log. Include an index of redactions and the legal basis.</p> <p>Third-party content. Identify licensed datasets/tools and any usage restrictions.</p> <p>DSP handling. DSP will segregate properly marked materials and withhold them from public disclosure to the extent allowed by law. If a disclosure request is received for marked content, DSP will provide notice to the proposer.</p> <p>No overriding NDAs. DSP cannot sign NDAs that supersede public-records obligations; protection will rely on statutory exemptions and proper markings.</p>

<p>Should the schedule be based on actual known NTP date or on assumed date (and if assumed, what should that be)?</p> <p>Are milestone completion dates fixed or negotiable during contract negotiation?</p>	<p>Proposers should base their schedules on an assumed NTP date of October 1, 2025. Proposers shall include proposed milestones aligned to that assumption. Upon selection, DSP and the Program Manager will work with the successful proposer to develop and approve a formal, integrated schedule; milestone dates may be adjusted during contract negotiation and kickoff to reflect the actual NTP and coordinated program dependencies.</p>
<p>Must subcontractors have their RUP registration at submission date or is there a cure period before contract award? (The RFP language suggests at submission, but clarification would avoid risk.)</p>	<p>DSP prefers that all proposed subcontractors hold an active Registro Único de Proveedores (RUP) at the time of proposal submission; however, DSP will not exclude an otherwise qualified firm solely on that basis. RUP registration is required prior to contract execution, and the project schedule will not be adjusted to accommodate pending registrations. Proposers are strongly encouraged to ensure subcontractors complete RUP registration or demonstrate clear progress toward completion (e.g., submitted application, pending documentation) in their proposals. DSP may request evidence of status during evaluation and prior to award.</p>
<p>Can specialized subcontractors (e.g., RF modeling experts) perform field testing if they do not hold A&E licensure, provided no regulated A&E tasks are assigned to them?</p>	<p>Specialized subcontractors may perform clearly non-regulated support tasks (e.g., field measurements/drive testing, inventory and site photography, drafting/CAD, GIS digitization, model input preparation, data processing) under the direction and QA/QC of Puerto Rico–licensed professionals on the team. Any regulated professional services—including engineering/architectural design, technical studies/inspections/measurements leading to professional conclusions or acceptance decisions, analyses and reports that establish design criteria or compliance, and all signed/sealed deliverables—must be performed and/or sealed by duly licensed Puerto Rico professionals in accordance with Law 173 and applicable circulars. The Prime is responsible for team structure and compliance. Proposals should map tasks to responsible licensed professionals and</p>

	<p>describe oversight/QA procedures.</p> <p>Subcontractors must meet Commonwealth business registration requirements (e.g., RUP).</p>
<p>If a subcontractor is a U.S. firm without a Puerto Rico license but will not perform regulated A&E tasks, must it still register with the Puerto Rico Examining Board or just with ASG RUP?</p>	<p>If a subcontractor will not perform regulated A&E services, Puerto Rico A&E licensure and CIAPR/CAAPPR membership are not required. In such cases, the firm must hold an active RUP and comply with all other applicable Commonwealth business requirements. The Prime must ensure that non-licensed firms do not perform or offer to perform regulated professional services, and that any engineering/architectural analyses, studies, inspections, designs, or signed/sealed deliverables are performed and/or sealed by duly licensed Puerto Rico professionals. If a subcontractor's scope later expands to include regulated services, appropriate licensure must be obtained before performing such work.</p>
<p>Within the 35% experience category, is more weight given to LMR experience, OWS experience, or combined public safety systems projects? Understanding this affects reference selection.</p>	<p>The intent of this procurement is to select a firm—or a prime/subcontractor team—with demonstrated capability across both Land Mobile Radio (LMR) and Outdoor Warning Systems (OWS). For evaluation purposes, proposers should treat LMR and OWS experience as equally important. DSP will place particular value on integrated experience that shows effective coordination between these domains at program scale.</p>
<p>Will DPS disqualify firms with any past OEM/vendor relationships, or is strict disclosure and demonstrated independence sufficient?</p>	<p>The ultimate deliverables for this contract are vendor-independent design criteria and performance specifications. DSP therefore prefers vendor-agnostic firms and teams. Disclosure. Proposers must fully disclose any past or current relationships with OEMs or vendors (e.g., reseller agreements, referral fees, paid partnerships, commissioned sales, joint marketing, or similar ties). Formal acknowledgment. Proposers must submit a signed acknowledgment that all recommendations, analyses, specifications, and performance criteria will be independent of any vendor and will not be based on,</p>

	<p>include, or favor a specific manufacturer's equipment, features, or capabilities.</p> <p>Independence in practice. Design criteria and specifications shall be performance-based and measurable, allowing open competition among qualified products.</p> <p>Conflicts. Teams with active relationships that could compromise independence must provide a conflict-mitigation plan; DSP may adjust scoring or deem a conflict unresolvable at its discretion.</p> <p>Flow-down. These requirements apply to all subcontractors.</p>
For cost scoring (20%), will lowest cost automatically receive maximum points, or is a cost-value/benefit ratio used?	<p>DSP uses a best-value approach. Price will be evaluated for reasonableness, realism, and completeness, and considered in relation to technical merit. The lowest price will not automatically receive maximum points. Instead, scoring reflects the extent to which the proposed price is aligned with the scope, schedule, risk, and quality controls described in the technical proposal. DSP reserves the ability to conduct clarifications/negotiations as permitted by the RFP.</p>
<p>Given Puerto Rico's hurricane/storm season, will schedule extensions be granted if conditions prevent field testing?</p> <p>Should proposals include contingency cost lines for re-testing after storm events?</p>	<p>Safety & schedule. Field work will halt for unsafe conditions (e.g., NWS tropical storm/hurricane watches or warnings, agency closures, declared emergencies). Such events are excusable, non-compensable delays; schedule relief only may be granted.</p> <p>Pricing (no added cost to DSP). Proposers shall include in their fixed price all reasonable weather/disaster-related re-mobilizations and re-testing necessary to complete the scope as written. No separate line items or unit rates for weather-related re-tests will be authorized. Contractor-caused repeats remain at the contractor's cost.</p> <p>Changes in scope. If DSP later directs additional scope beyond the RFP (e.g., new sites or analyses not in the original scope), such work will be handled through the contract's change mechanism. Weather alone does not constitute added scope.</p>

Will DPS provide a single POC for scheduling all Commonwealth agency interviews, or must the contractor contact each agency separately?	Scheduling will be a team effort among DPS, the Program Manager, and the selected firm. The selected firm will propose and maintain the master interview/meeting schedule; the Program Manager will coordinate outreach and confirmations with agencies; and DPS will facilitate access and executive-level coordination as needed. The selected firm should provide consolidated requests and reasonable lead times so the team can align calendars efficiently.
Will DPS or the contractor be responsible for ordering and paying for non-destructive tower testing, soil borings, and other specialized site engineering studies if required?	The selected firm is responsible for ordering and paying for all non-destructive tower inspections, structural evaluations, and other specialized site studies necessary to complete the scope and support the required deliverables. These activities (e.g., member/connection inspections, plumbness/guy-tension checks, anchor/foundation assessments, corrosion/coating evaluations, and any required soil borings or geotechnical verification) shall be included in the proposer's fixed price —no separate allowances. If DSP later directs additional scope beyond the RFP, such work may be handled through the contract's change mechanism.
Must bond pricing be a separate line item in cost proposal, or can it be embedded in overhead/general conditions?	Proposers shall include any required surety bond premium(s) within their fixed price . To promote transparency and comparability, proposers must also provide an informational breakout of the bond premium(s) within the Cost Schedule, but no separate payment or CLIN will be authorized for bonds. If DSP later changes the required bond amount solely due to a DSP-directed change in contract value or scope , any adjustment will be handled through the contract's change mechanism.
Is the selected contractor expected to prepare and file permit applications during Phase I, or will this fall to the Phase II implementation vendor?	Phase I will identify requirements only . The selected firm shall develop a Permitting & Approvals Matrix (by site and activity) that lists the AHJs, permit/license types and triggers, submittal content (e.g., signed/sealed plans, calculations, studies), expected fees/lead times, inspections, and any pre-application consultation needs. Provide

	templates/checklists and schedule integration notes to accelerate Phase II. Phase I will not file or pay for permits; filings and fees will be the responsibility of the Phase II implementation contractor.
Will DPS furnish base GIS layers for roads, parcels, and utilities, or must the contractor generate these from scratch?	DPS (and the Program Manager) will provide any available Commonwealth/agency base layers (e.g., roads, parcels, municipal boundaries, elevation/land cover) as-is for proposer reference. No guarantee is made as to availability, completeness, accuracy, currency, licensing terms, or suitability for the intended analyses. The selected firm is responsible for acquiring/creating any additional base data needed, for QA/QC and gap-filling of all inputs used in analyses and modeling, for harmonizing datasets to the project CRS (NAD83(2011) / PR & VI SPCS, EPSG:6566) and supplying convenience copies in WGS84 (EPSG:4326), and for complying with licenses while documenting sources/metadata for delivered layers.
Dada la extensión del plazo de entrega de propuestas al 4 de septiembre de 2025, ¿considerará el DPS también ampliar la fecha límite de 13 de agosto de 2025 para la presentación de preguntas? Así, los proponentes dispondrán de más tiempo para asimilar las aclaraciones antes de finalizar los volúmenes técnicos y económicos.	The August 13, 2025 deadline for submitting questions remains unchanged. All proposers should submit questions by this date to ensure adequate time for DPS to respond and distribute clarifications prior to the proposal submission deadline.
¿Considerará el DPS extender la fecha de notificación de adjudicación más allá del 12 de septiembre de 2025 para disponer de más tiempo para una evaluación exhaustiva de las propuestas, dada su previsible gran extensión y complejidad?	The current anticipated award notification date of September 12, 2025 remains as stated in the RFP. DPS will ensure that the evaluation process is thorough and consistent within the published schedule
¿Publicará el DPS todas las preguntas y respuestas recibidas en un documento consolidado, para asegurar que todos los proponentes dispongan de las mismas aclaraciones, aunque las respuestas se emitan de forma continua?	Yes. DPS will compile in a consolidated document and post all questions and answers in the DPS website to ensure all proposers receive the same information, regardless of whether responses were initially provided on a rolling basis.
¿Puede el DPS confirmar si los requisitos de pruebas de campo extensivas (mapas de cobertura en los 78 municipios, pruebas en 250 edificios y mediciones de ruido ambiental en 120 ubicaciones) deben	All field testing requirements are to be completed as part of the design phase deliverables under this contract. Phased execution after award is not contemplated under the current scope

completarse totalmente durante la fase de diseño o si podrán ejecutarse por fases después de la adjudicación?	
¿Aceptará el DPS el uso de modelado predictivo (por ejemplo, EDX Signal Pro, SoundPLAN) en combinación con pruebas de campo parciales para cumplir los requisitos de cobertura y rendimiento durante la fase de diseño?	No. Proposers must propose meeting the full scope of work as stated in the RFP, including all required field testing. Predictive modeling is not permitted as a substitute for required testing in proposals. Any suggested deviations may only be considered by the selected firm after award and with DPS approval.
¿Cómo evaluará el DPS el cumplimiento de los requisitos de integración de LMR, IPAWS, NG911 y OWS si las normas técnicas pertinentes evolucionan durante la ejecución del contrato?	Evolutions in standards will be evaluated by Program Management and DPS and addressed at that time. For the purpose of this RFP, the current standards stated in the RFP apply.
¿Aceptará el DPS propuestas de contratistas principales que trabajen con subcontratistas especializados que obtengan la licencia de Puerto Rico después de presentar la propuesta, pero antes de la adjudicación o firma del contrato?	No. All subcontractors performing regulated architectural or engineering services must possess the required Puerto Rico licensure, business registration, and RUP certification at the time of proposal submission. For unregulated tasks, subcontractors must also be registered in the RUP, comply with all applicable business, tax, and labor law requirements in Puerto Rico, and be legally authorized to perform the contracted work. Prime contractors remain responsible for ensuring compliance for both regulated and unregulated tasks.
¿Considerará el DPS certificaciones equivalentes emitidas por estados de EE. UU. o autoridades federales en lugar de ciertos requisitos de licencia de Puerto Rico, si cumplen o superan los estándares técnicos y profesionales especificados?	No. All licensing requirements under Puerto Rico Law No. 173-1988 and Circular Letter OC-26-01 must be met as stated in the RFP. Equivalent out-of-jurisdiction certifications will not be accepted in lieu of these requirements.
¿Puede el DPS confirmar que este proceso de adquisición se llevará a cabo conforme a 2 CFR Parte 200 y a los principios aplicables del FAR, dado que el financiamiento proviene del programa FEMA HMGP?	Yes. This procurement will be conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 and applicable FEMA HMGP requirements. While FAR principles may be considered where relevant, the controlling requirements are those established under FEMA and 2 CFR Part 200.
¿Proporcionará el DPS plantillas específicas de cumplimiento de FEMA, listas de verificación ambientales u otros formatos de reporte para garantizar la alineación con los requisitos del HMGP?	DPS will provide any FEMA-required templates, environmental checklists, or reporting formats that must be used for this project to the selected firm.

¿Existen límites de tamaño de archivo, formatos preferidos o requisitos de compresión/cifrado para las propuestas enviadas por correo electrónico?	Proposals must be submitted in PDF format via email to the address specified in the RFP. The total file size per email should not exceed 25 MB. If necessary, files may be split into multiple emails and clearly labeled. Encryption may be used, provided passwords are submitted in a separate communication
Dado que no se proporciona un formulario estandarizado de propuesta de costos, ¿especificará el DPS categorías de desglose o partidas obligatorias para garantizar la alineación con los criterios de evaluación y los principios de costos de FEMA bajo 2 CFR Parte 200?	Yes. Proposers should provide a detailed cost breakdown consistent with the cost principles under 2 CFR Part 200. DPS will review for alignment with evaluation criteria and may request clarification or additional breakdown if needed.
Please clarify scoring criteria and information to be provided in “commercial terms” page 42 of 85.	Commercial Terms refers to the proposer’s standard contractual, payment, and administrative terms that would apply if selected. Proposers should clearly state any proposed terms, conditions, exceptions, or clarifications to the contractual and commercial requirements of the RFP. This section is weighted at 10% of the total score.
Please provide sample of the contract to be used for this Project.	A standard professional services agreement will be used, incorporating the requirements of the RFP and applicable FEMA and Puerto Rico laws and regulations. A sample will be provided to the selected proposer during contract negotiations.
<p>Section X Scope of Work, section C Needs Assessment, paragraph 3 (page 22 of 85)</p> <p>a. This section describes drive testing 100% of the 78 municipalities. Is the expectation that this drive test will be completed during the predesign phase (i.e.- as part of this project). If so, please explain the intent of 100% of municipalities. Typically, drive testing is conducted in ~.5 km grids and overlayed on accessible streets to determine the drive routes. Will this or similar strategy be acceptable?</p>	Yes. The drive testing is part of this project’s scope of work during the predesign phase. The requirement to test 100% of the 78 municipalities is to ensure island-wide coverage data is collected. Strategies such as 0.5 km grids and route optimization based on accessible streets are acceptable, provided they achieve the coverage intent and meet the technical requirements outlined in the RFP.

<p>Section X Scope of Work, section C Needs Assessment, paragraph 4 (page 23 of 85)</p> <p>a. This section describes testing no less than 250 buildings. Are these buildings to be tested as part of the predesign (i.e.- as part of this project). If so, are the buildings pre-defined by the client or will we be responsible for selecting buildings.</p> <p>b. Please clarify “no less than 250 buildings” to provide accurate price for the services. Is there a total number of buildings and general location?</p>	<p>Yes. The in-building coverage testing is to be conducted as part of this project during the predesign phase. DPS will provide guidance on building types and locations to ensure representative sampling. The selected firm will be responsible for developing the proposed list to meet the quantity and diversity requirements, and DPS will provide approval of the final list coordinated with the program manager and the selected firm. The “no less than 250” figure is a minimum threshold; the distribution should cover varying building types, uses, and geographic areas across the island.</p>
<p>Please provide, if possible, a copy of FEMA HMGP Grant Project #4339-0014, or the conditions that apply to the scope of services under this RFP.</p>	<p>The scope of work of this RFP is in full alignment with the grant and its COA. The official documentation will be shared with the selected firm.</p>
<p>Section 8.d (Page 30) of the RFP requires conducting ambient noise measurements at 120 locations as required by the study and design requirements and approved by the DPS. Ambient noise measurements must be conducted in accordance with ANSI S12.14.</p> <p>a. Does the RFP call for long-term ambient noise measurements at 120 locations (without alarm noise)—meaning sound level meters must be deployed in the field for one day or more (up to a week) to capture extended noise data? Or is the RFP requirement limited to noise testing (ambient plus alarm) as outlined in ANSI S12.14?</p>	<p>The requirement is for ambient noise measurements to be conducted in accordance with ANSI S12.14 and the FEMA Outdoor Warning Systems Technical Bulletin, not for extended long-term deployments. Testing will focus on the ambient sound environment at the designated locations to support system design, and measurements should be taken during peak hours. Bucket trucks, operators, and site access coordination for any elevated measurement needs will be the responsibility of the selected firm and should be included in the proposal.</p>

<p>b. If the measurements are to be conducted as per ANSI S12.14, ANSI S12.14 requires measuring the noise levels of the warning system along its horizontal axis at a distance of 100 feet. Since the system is elevated above ground level, a bucket truck will be necessary to perform these measurements. Will the agency responsible for maintaining the warning system be providing the bucket trucks, qualified personnel to operate them, and access for acousticians to reach the required elevation for testing?</p>	
<p>On Page 23 Item 3 Bullet d. Can DSP clarify the number of buildings where testing will be performed, or should we assume 250 buildings? The range of no less than 250 is very broad and can impact pricing.</p>	<p>Yes. For proposal purposes, assume 250 buildings as stated in the RFP.</p>
<p>For needs assessment on Page 23 Item 3 Bullet a., it indicates we need to conduct a needs assessment through an appropriate combination of surveys and interviews with all current or potential user agencies or stakeholders. Can DSP clarify what number of agencies or stakeholders would require this?</p>	<p>For proposal purposes, proposers should plan to engage all primary public safety agencies, including the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, Fire Service Agencies, Emergency Medical Service Bureau, Emergency Management Agencies (including the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Bureau), and the Commonwealth Department of Public Safety, along with other public safety or government agencies identified by DPS. In addition, proposers should plan to include public institutions that are beneficiaries of these systems, such as governmental, educational, and healthcare facilities. A reasonable planning assumption is to engage approximately 20–25 agencies and institutions across these categories, coordinated with DPS and the Program Manager.</p>
<p>For needs assessment on Page 23 Item 3 Bullet r. An assessment of the current</p>	<p>The number of dispatch facilities will be determined by the selected A&E firm during the</p>

dispatch facilities and related elements such as dispatch consoles, recorders, workstation furniture, space available for expansion, etc. Can DSP establish how many current facilities should be estimated?	evaluation phase in coordination with DPS and the Program Manager.
For needs assessment on Page 23 Item 3 Bullet s. An assessment of the existing microwave and link network facilities connecting the systems. Of interest is the sustainability of the current network facilities for supporting future public safety-grade land mobile radio capabilities. How many facilities will need assessment?	See attached document
Can DSP provide a list of the telecommunications towers, telecommunications rooms, the building, the outdoor area to be covered and other related areas?	See attached document
Could the Department of Public Safety (DPS) provide an approximate number or inventory of existing sites currently equipped with Land Mobile Radio (LMR) and Outdoor Warning System (OWS) components? This information would assist in evaluating the scope of potential upgrades or mitigation measures required for retained infrastructure.	See attached document
On page 22, Need Assessment and Recommendations, Regarding the requirement for 100% coverage testing across Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities, could DPS clarify whether uninhabited or non-residential areas are expected to be included in the drive testing and coverage validation efforts?	Yes. All areas within each municipality, including uninhabited and non-residential areas, are to be included in the drive testing and coverage validation efforts to ensure complete and accurate coverage assessment.
For the in-building coverage testing requirement involving at least 250 buildings, is there an average or expected range of square footage per building that should be considered for planning and resource allocation purposes?	Given the lack of a final selection of the 250 buildings to be surveyed, proposers should use an average of 75,000 square feet for the surface area. Proposers are encouraged to provide a cost estimate for any building size exceeding this baseline, with pricing estimates. For example, \$X for each 10,000 square foot

	increment beyond the 75,000 square feet baseline.
Does the Government of Puerto Rico has a registry of all FCC-licensed frequencies currently in use by public safety and emergency communication systems across the island?	The confirmation of whether the Puerto Rico Government has a complete record of all licensed frequencies used by existing radiocommunication systems will need to be verified through the course of the project. The selected firm will work closely with DPS and relevant agencies to review and compile this information. It is expected that the Puerto Rico Government maintains records of licensed frequencies, particularly for public safety and emergency communication systems. However, as part of the assessment phase, the firm will need to validate the accuracy and completeness of these records to ensure all necessary frequencies are accounted for, and that they comply with FCC licensure requirements. This process will be critical for ensuring proper coordination and interoperability of the future system.
Will the scope of work include a comprehensive assessment of existing physical security infrastructure at current and proposed sites, including the potential replacement of fencing, surveillance systems, and integration with federal-level platforms such as Security Operations Centers (SOCs)?	Yes. The scope should include a comprehensive assessment of existing physical security infrastructure at current and proposed sites. This includes evaluating and designing fencing and surveillance systems as required, with integration capabilities to DPS's central monitoring systems. Security surveillance systems will be centralized and monitored by DPS. Integration with Security Operations Centers (SOCs) should be considered where applicable.
Should the envisioned alerting system support both tone and voice notifications in indoor environments (e.g., public buildings) as well as outdoor locations, and are there specific performance expectations for each context?	Yes. The expectation is to provide tone and voice notifications in indoor environments and multilingual voice and tone notifications for outdoor locations. The design should leverage the capabilities of existing indoor mass notification systems where present. The selected firm will identify and evaluate community anchor institutions to assess capabilities and gaps, ensuring alignment with applicable standards for mass notification systems.
Can DPS provide a detailed list of governmental, educational, and public	The list of governmental, educational, and public buildings to be interfaced into the public

buildings intended for integration into the mass notification system, including approximate square footage or occupancy data to support system design and propagation modeling?	warning system will be developed during the assessment phase of the project by the selected A&E firm, in coordination with DPS and the Program Manager.
Is there a publicly available or shareable list of the current emergency communication systems and vendors utilized by DPS and other public safety agencies across Puerto Rico that could inform the interoperability and migration strategy?	The specific systems and vendors currently used by DPS and other public safety agencies will be documented as part of the assessment process conducted by the selected A&E firm. DPS does not have a publicly available or shareable list for distribution prior to award.
Does the scope of services include the architectural and engineering design of telecommunications rooms within existing and proposed tower sites, including structured cabling, power systems, and environmental controls?	Yes. The telecommunications design inside the telecommunications rooms, including structured cabling, power systems, and environmental controls, is part of the scope for both existing and proposed tower sites.
Has the scope of work used to develop this RFP been reviewed or endorsed by the Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinator (SWIC)? Additionally, has FEMA reviewed or approved any modifications to the scope or technical direction of the project?	The scope of work remains aligned with the current Conditions of Approval.
Could DPS elaborate on the expected coordination process with the APCO Frequency Coordinator? Are other recognized frequency coordination entities such as IMSA, FCCA, or AASHTO also considered relevant or acceptable for this project?	APCO will be the default frequency coordination entity for this project to ensure consistency with public safety spectrum coordination processes. Other FCC-certified frequency coordinators such as IMSA, FCCA, or AASHTO may be considered if the specific frequency bands or operational needs align better with their coordination authority. The use of any entity other than APCO must be justified by the selected firm and approved by DPS.
Has DPS or any of its affiliated agencies compiled a comprehensive inventory of all existing communication equipment, including operational status, age, and planned upgrades? Does this inventory include assets from other Government of Puerto Rico agencies with Emergency Support Function (ESF) responsibilities?	The compilation of a comprehensive inventory of all existing communication equipment, including operational status, age, and planned upgrades, will be part of the assessment phase for this project. This will include reviewing assets from other Government of Puerto Rico agencies with Emergency Support Function (ESF) responsibilities, in coordination with DPS and relevant agencies.

Has DPS identified specific interoperability challenges among current radio systems used by various agencies? Are there existing reports or assessments that outline the current status and anticipated improvements required to meet national interoperability mandates?	The RFP is issued to secure professional evaluation and documentation of current interoperability conditions. This includes identifying challenges, reviewing any existing reports, and developing recommendations to meet national interoperability mandates.
What role, if any, do SMART Island initiatives—such as those funded under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program—play in shaping or supporting the design scope to be developed by the selected A&E firm?	During the evaluation, the selected firm will coordinate with SMART Island/BEAD initiatives to identify synergies and opportunities that may support the public safety communications design. Any applicable alignments or leverage of those systems should be documented and, where appropriate, reflected in the design specifications. For proposal purposes, do not assume dependency on assets not yet confirmed; potential integrations will be assessed in coordination with DPS and the Program Manager during the assessment phase.
Has DPS or any other coordinating entity conducted an assessment of the unique daily communication requirements of each agency involved in emergency management and public safety operations?	The determination of the unique daily communication needs of each agency involved in emergency management and public safety has not yet been completed. This task is a key part of the scope of work outlined in this RFP. The selected firm will work closely with DPS and other relevant agencies to assess and document these communication needs during the design phase of the project. The goal is to ensure that the communication infrastructure supports the operational requirements of each agency, providing sufficient capacity, coverage, and reliability for daily operations as well as during emergencies. As part of this assessment, the selected firm will engage with various stakeholders to understand their specific communication needs, including voice, data, and interoperability requirements, ensuring that the final design is tailored to the real-world demands of all involved agencies.
How does DPS envision the integration of emerging technologies or systems to enhance existing public safety	With respect to submissions for this RFP, respondents are encouraged to propose the scope of work as contained herein. The selected firm will have the opportunity to make

communication capabilities? Is there flexibility within the scope to propose innovative solutions?	recommendations for emerging technologies or systems post-selection. All proposed technologies will be reviewed and approved by DPS and the Program Management team to ensure alignment with the Conditions of Approval and the needs of the territory.
How does DPS intend to address interoperability challenges between systems operating on different frequency bands (e.g., VHF, UHF, 700/800 MHz)? Will the A&E firm be allowed to propose flexible design alternatives to address these challenges?	Interoperability between different communication systems, including VHF, UHF, and 700/800 MHz bands, will be a key focus of the selected A&E firm's work. DPS recognizes the importance of achieving seamless communication between agencies that may be using different frequencies and systems. The selected firm will have the flexibility to propose design alternatives within the parameters of this RFP that achieve robust interoperability across all agencies involved in public safety and emergency management.
What specific technical standards or protocols are required to ensure seamless integration with existing systems? For example, is compliance with APCO Project 25 (P25) mandatory across all components?	Yes. Compliance with APCO Project 25 (P25) in accordance with TIA-102 standards is required for all applicable components to ensure interoperability and eligibility for federal funding. The selected A&E firm must demonstrate expertise in P25 implementation and other relevant industry standards to ensure seamless integration with existing systems.
Considering that municipalities, federal agencies, and other entities operate systems on various frequency bands, does DPS prefer expanding the existing PRPB P25 system, or is the deployment of entirely new systems under consideration?	The requirements of this RFP are for the qualified A&E firm to assess all existing systems and determine the best possible design for the new interoperable system. The final solution will be a P-25 system that meets all TIA-102 standards, which is a requirement by DHS to receive federal grant funding for public safety infrastructure networks. Whether to expand the existing PRPB P25 system or deploy entirely new systems will be determined through the work of the selected A&E firm. The firm will evaluate the current communication landscape, including the various systems used by municipalities, the federal government, and other agencies (VHF, UHF), and recommend the best path forward. DPS is open to all viable options that provide improved interoperability, coverage, and functionality, and the final recommendation will be based on the A&E firm's detailed analysis and design proposals.

<p>What are DPS's long-term strategic goals regarding future upgrades to the public safety communications infrastructure? Should the A&E design account for scalability and future expansion?</p>	<p>DPS and the Program Management team are developing long-term strategies for future upgrades to the public safety communications infrastructure. Throughout the design phase, the selected firm should consider scalability and future expansion. DPS and the Program Management team will review these considerations as part of the design process.</p>
<p>Beyond FCC regulations, are there additional federal compliance requirements—such as FEMA technical bulletins, DHS interoperability standards, or NTIA guidelines—that must be addressed in the design and implementation phases?</p>	<p>The selected firm is expected to have the knowledge and expertise to identify, understand, and comply with all relevant federal requirements. This includes not only FCC regulations but also applicable FEMA technical bulletins, DHS interoperability standards, NTIA guidelines, and any other applicable grant, environmental, and design requirements. The firm must ensure full compliance throughout the project, addressing all regulatory obligations necessary for successful execution.</p>