**Request for Proposal**

**Engineering services on a fiber construction project**

**Response:** Technical inquiries and specification clarifications are due by 4 PM on February 3, 2023, to Jordan Spence, jspence@myftcfiber.net, or TJ Hand, thand@myftcfiber.net. All inquiries must be in writing. Responses will be provided to all known respondents. Respondents are not entitled to rely on any verbal clarification or response from anyone in connection with this RFP. Respondents must have professional engineering license in the state of Mississippi and experience with grant projects. Final RFP due by February 10, 2023.

**Description of Project:** The proposed funded service areas cover approximately 30 square miles of Calhoun county in central Mississippi. This project will make high speed broadband available to approximately 265 locations.

This proposed design will deploy single mode fiber optic cables constructed utilizing RUS approved construction techniques. All fiber will be buried or bored and placed in existing previously disturbed public right-of-ways. To provide a more secure reliable fiber footprint all the buried fiber will be placed at a minimum depth of 36 inches unless other depths are required by the affected highway, railroad, municipalities or other authorities. The two methods of buried construction that will be utilized are predominately plowing with directional boring utilized when road or stream or other types of crossings are required. Directional boring will also be utilized when it is not possible to plow or boring is more feasible construction

**Network Diagrams:** Attached for review – KMZ of project area

**Engineering Categories and Descriptions:** Vendor needs to provide engineering services for fiber project. Response should include detailed projections of hours, rates and estimated expenses related to each of the categories presented in Exhibit B, as well as a not to exceed number for the entire project.

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| **Exhibit B** |
| **Engineering Service Category** | **Hours** | **Average Rate** | **Estimated Expenses** | **Total Not to Exceed** |
| **Project Design** |   |   |   |   |
| **Right of Way (ROW) Permitting** |   |   |   |   |
| **Outside Plant Staking Services** |   |   |   |   |
| **Total** |   |   |   |   |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Tentative Project Completion Date** |   |  |  |

**Deliverables:**

1. Will comply with any requirements as pertaining to a 2 CFR 200, including, but not limited to, all requirements contained with Appendix II Part 200, provided with this RFP.
2. Staking sheets complete with service addresses and GPS of all locations passed.
	1. Address list should contain notations of inhabitable/noninhabitable, residential / business / church.
	2. Engineering firm will secure all ROW as required.
	3. Staking sheets will also indicate the existing ROW and any known obstacles to construction along with proposed construction route. It will also indicate manner of proposed construction along with estimate of construction cost. Will determine best side for construction depending on these factors.
	4. Staking sheets will include any pertinent information needed for the construction corridor to complete any and all permit requirements, and for construction drawings. Staking sheets will be generated using GPS information for such items as centerline, ROW, driveways, and culverts.
3. Permits and Environmental requirements.
	1. Permits and correspondence with environmental agencies to confirm requirements. Provide all required maps, applications and any other documents needed to be submitted with permits.
	2. Assist with any environmental studies or finding experts to perform studies as needed.
	3. Secure all permits for local, county, state, forestry, wetlands, railroads that maybe required in a timely manner as to meet construction schedules.
4. Plans and Specs
	1. Will create Plans and Specs and review with We Connect Communications, Inc. personnel. Including any legend requirements and identification.
	2. Will secure proper documentation from contractors to meets RUS Community Connect requirements.
	3. Will provide owner with tally of units for materials to be used for construction with enough time to place orders and keep on schedules.
	4. Bid ready plans and specs packet with required RUS contract completed.
	5. Provide bid packages to all prospective bidders.
5. Cut sheets and as-built maps in Auto-CAD format.
	1. Cutsheets will be created for fiber and copper connections as needed.
	2. Cutsheets will be labeled as to identify all cables and equipment with appropriate naming system utilized by Owner.
	3. Will also include depth profiles for buried, as needed.
	4. As-builts will be provided in a geospatial format to be usable by the owner for any mapping systems they are utilizing.

**RFP Scoring Rubric:**

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| **Category** | **Total Points** |
| Project Duration  | 45 |
| Total Project Cost | 40 |
| Women/Minority Owned Business Enterprises | 15 |
|  | 100 |

* Due to the window of performance under the NTIA BIP award, project duration is the highest driving factor.

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| **Points Per Time Frame:** |
| **Time Frame** | **Points** |
| 3 - 6 weeks | 45 |
| 7 - 12 weeks | 30 |
| 12 - 16 weeks | 15 |
| 17 + weeks | 0 |

* Second highest determining factor is the total cost of services. This category will compare the total cost of services to our estimated cost.

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| **Points Per Line Item:** |
| **Criteria** | **Points** |
| Total price within 110% of est. total price. | 40 |
| Total price within 120% of est. total price. | 32 |
| Total price within 130% of est. total price. | 24 |
| Total price within 140% of est. total price. | 16 |
| Total price within 150% of est. total price. | 8 |
| Greater than 150% of est. total price | 0 |

* Involving Women and Minority owned businesses is important to We Connect Communications, Inc., so vendors that are certified with a WBE (Women Business Enterprise) or a MBE (Minority Business Enterprise) will be granted 15 points.
	+ If your company qualifies as a WBE or a MBE, please provide a copy of your certificate with your submission