Request for Proposal Number RFP # 24 25 WAN (MPLS) SERVICES AND INTERNET ACCESS_NEW

The Institute for the Redesign of Learning 99 Pasadena Ave Suite 10C South Pasadena, CA 91030

470 Posting Date: December 18, 2023

Newspaper Ad Dates: December 18, 2023 and December 25, 2023

Questions Due Date: January 4, 2024 at 10:00 AM PST Bid Submittal Due Date: February 07, 2024 at 10:00 AM PST

The Institute for the Redesign of Learning WAN (MPLS) Services and Internet Access_NEW Service Provider Criteria and Contract Requirements

The requirements outlined in this document will apply to all contracts entered into as a result of the posting of E-rate Form 470 as set forth below:

Project Goals

The Institute for the Redesign of Learning is seeking a single telecommunications provider that will be able to meet its data telecommunications needs for the implementation, support, and service of a district wide MPLS/ WAN infrastructure solution.

QUALIFICATIONS

Please provide responses to the following questions as well as details to offer a comprehensive representation of your company and its services.

		Yes/No
1.	The vendor must be able to guarantee network availability at least 99.5% of the time in a calendar month, and packet delivery of 99.5% or greater, except for outages caused by the customer's equipment, fiber cuts by third parties, acts of God, or other Force Majeure events.	
Please	elaborate:	
2.	Does your company monitor all telecommunication services 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year?	
	Please elaborate:	
3.	Is your company able to provide, at no additional charge, immediate notification to The Institute for the Redesign of Learning network department representative of any and all telecommunications service outages or anomalies which affect the use of the service to The Institute for the Redesign of Learning?	
	Please elaborate:	
4.	Please provide the process for The Institute for the Redesign of Learning to report any problems with the facilities, circuits, network or telecommunications services including the minimum response time.	

	Please elaborate:	
5.	Provide details regarding your company's service center, including, but not limited to, staffing experience, process and priority service. Please elaborate:	
6.	Your company will provide a non-performance policy with The Institute for the Redesign of Learning which provides The Institute for the Redesign of Learning a monthly credit equal to two times the monthly rate multiplied by the percentage of monthly outage to any site within The Institute for the Redesign of Learning, when such faults, outages or anomalies are due to the oversight neglect or unreliability of your company's services. Please elaborate:	
7.	Does your company maintain compliance with any and all legal requirements set forth under the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Communications Commission of the United States of America? Please elaborate:	
8.	Does your company agree that The Institute for the Redesign of Learning can reserve the option to terminate service, without penalty and full expectation of refund of any and all proceeds paid prior to date of termination of contract or services for balance of services not rendered? Please elaborate:	

TRANSITION PLAN

As the cut-over date for any new carrier is desired on July 1, 2024, The Institute for the Redesign of Learning requires a transition plan to be provided with any proposal response from responsible suppliers that are not the current carrier. The plan is to include the resources to be dedicated to the transition, all costs associated with the transition, a timeline of actions with a completion target date for the supplier and for the The Institute for the Redesign of Learning transition team. The transition plan is to outline the expectations the supplier team would have of The Institute for the Redesign of Learning and the information or task The Institute for the Redesign of Learning is to provide the supplier and the date any information or task would be required.

The Institute for the Redesign of Learning reserves the option to terminate service, without penalty and full expectation of refund of any and all proceeds paid prior to date of termination of contract or services for balance of services not rendered, if the district is dissatisfied with the service.

Service Provider warrants that such facilities and services will maintain the performance criteria stated above at all times during the continuation of this Agreement. Service Provider warrants that it had good title to all elements of the facilities and services and has the legal right to contract with **The Institute for the Redesign of Learning** for the installation and use of such facilities and services. Service Provider shall indemnify **The Institute for the Redesign of Learning** and its trustees and employees against any claims or threat of claims brought by any third party alleging infringement of any proprietary rights.

Evaluation Criteria

E-Rate Eligible Price is the most heavily weighted factor in selecting	
the awarded Service Provider	40%
Ability to deliver services within desired timeframe	15%
Understanding of needs	15%
Past successful E-Rate experience	
Completeness of response	
TOTAL: 100%	

Applicant will score all responses submitted within the guidelines noted above, using the rubric/ matrix scoring system.

Customer Requirements

Provide quotes to design, implement, support, & service an efficient MPLS/ WAN infrastructure solution (200Mbps, 500Mbps, and/or 1Gbps) at the below Institute for the Redesign of Learning site locations:

211 Pasadena Ave, South Pasadena, CA, US, 91030

1955 Fremont Ave, South Pasadena, CA, US, 91030

5/6 Westmoreland Pl, Pasadena, CA, US, 91103

5900 S Eastern Ave, Commerce, CA, US, 90040

1317 Huntington Dr, South Pasadena, CA, US, 91030

625 Fair Oaks Ave, South Pasadena, CA, US, 91030

- 12 usable Public IP's per site location
- Option for growth including, but not limited to, increases in service and/or additions of locations, as determined necessary by the District
- Options for removal of sites due to closures or re-organization requirements as deemed necessary by the District. The District will require that there be no early termination charges or other penalties assessed in such situation that is determined to be outside the control of the District.

Specifications

Due to the geographic region that the District Office currently serves, quantities and regions can be best estimated and described. The District is open to solutions that will replace and/or update current services as follows:

- MPLS site links
- Internet (Outbound) Links

Information Requested

- Proposed solution pricing
 - Special construction cost (curb to MPOE) should be amortized over the initial contract term as part
 of the MRC. DISTRICT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY EASEMENT/RIGHT OF WAY COST
 INCURRED BY THE PROPOSER WHILE IMPLEMENTING THE SOLUTION. All cost proposals must
 include pricing to install services to the MPOE and DMARC point
- MRC for initial contract month term as well as MRC starting with contract renewal term.
- Contract term
 - Please provide pricing based upon 36 month, 48 month, and/or 60 month contract terms. Contracts may not exceed 60 months per California Education Code, Section 17596.
- Include any one-time and recurring costs and explain any additional associated contractual obligations associated with growth option (as stated above).
- Support agreements including response times.
- Timeline (see transition plan) stating number of days that services will be operational from date of order.
- Provide a minimum of three K-12 public school district references within California.

Instructions to Vendors

General Information

All responses shall conform to instructions provided in this Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

Deadline for RFP Submittal

Vendors must submit all required documents prior to the deadline. All proposals shall be complete and final with no additional information required after the close of the submittal date, unless specifically requested by the District. Responses received after the deadline will be returned unopened as not meeting the RFP requirements

Request for Proposal Preparation Cost

Costs for preparing responses and any other related material is the responsibility of the VENDOR and shall not be chargeable in any manner to **The Institute for the Redesign of Learning**. **The Institute for the Redesign of Learning** will not be held liable for any cost incurred by VENDORS in responding to the RFP.

Vendor Qualifications

Any individual firm submitting a proposal must be able to provide evidence that the individual or firm and its personnel carrying out the responsibilities have expertise and experiences in all areas identified in the Services Required section of this RFP.

References

Before awarding any contract, the DISTRICT reserves the right to require the vendor to submit evidence of qualifications, as it may deem appropriate. This evidence may be concerning financial, technical, and other qualifications as well as relevant experience and skills of the vendor.

Right to Reject Any and All Quotes

The Applicant reserves the right to reject any or all quotation submittals and to waive any informalities or regularities. The Service Provider's quotation submission is recognition of this right.

In addition, the Applicant reserves the right to fund, (proceed with project or purchase) or not to fund, regardless of E-Rate approval.

Due Date: Proposals must be received in writing by 10:00 AM local time (PST) on Wednesday, February 07, 2024 at 10:00 AM PST and must include the RFP name "RFP # 24 25 WAN (MPLS) and Internet Access_NEW" in the title. All bids must be sent to:

The Institute for the Redesign of Learning
ATTN: Mark Jodoin
99 Pasadena Avenue Suite 10C South Pasadena, CA 91030

All other inquiries should be submitted in writing and must include the RFP name "RFP # 24 25 WAN (MPLS) and Internet Access_NEW" in the subject line. Email inquiries must be sent to: mjodoin@tesidea.com

Deadline for inquiry submissions is January 04, 2024 at 10:00 am PST. Phone calls will not be accepted.

District will post all questions and answers to IRL's website as well as USAC's EPC Portal no later than January 09, 2024.

Proposals received after the exact time and date noted will NOT be considered for the bid process.

Request for Proposal Schedule

RFP Offered:

Newspaper Ad Dates:

• Questions Due Date:

• Questions & Answers Posted:

• Bid Closing:

December 18, 2023
December 18, 2023 and December 25, 2023
January 04, 2024 at 10:00 AM PST
January 09, 2024
February 07, 2024 at 10:00 AM PST

E-RATE SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Signed copy to be returned with proposal and/or bid response ("Proposal") in response to this Solicitation ("RFP/RFB/RFQ").

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 established a fund by which Schools and Libraries ("Applicant" or "Applicants") across the Country could access discounts on eligible telecommunications products and services. The program is commonly known as the E-rate Program. The eligibility for discounts on internet access, telecommunications products and services, internal connection products, services and maintenance is determined by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). Funding is made available upon application approval by the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"), which was established by the Act. The amount of discount is based on the numbers of students eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals.

1) E-RATE CONTINGENCY

The project herein may be contingent upon the approval of funding from the Universal Service Fund's Schools and Libraries Program, otherwise known as E-rate. Even after award of Agreement(s) and/or E-rate funding approval is approved, the Applicant may or may not proceed with the project, in whole or in part. Execution of the project, in whole or in part, is solely at the discretion of the Applicant.

2) SERVICE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

The Applicant expects Service Providers to make themselves thoroughly familiar with any rules or regulations regarding the E-rate program.

- a. Service Providers are required to be in full compliance with all current rules and requirements and future rules and requirements issued by the FCC and USAC throughout the agreement period of any Agreement entered into as a result of this RFP/RFB/RFQ.
- b. Service Providers are responsible for providing a valid Service Provider Identification Number ("SPIN"). More information about obtaining a SPIN may be found at this website: https://www.usac.org/e-rate/service-providers/step-1-obtain-a-spin/
- c. Service Providers are responsible for providing a valid Federal Communications Commission Registration Number ("FRN") at the time the Proposal is submitted. More information about obtaining an FRN may be found at this website: https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do
- d. Service Providers are responsible for providing evidence of FCC Green Light Status at the time the proposal is submitted. Any potential Service Provider found to be in Red Light Status must provide an explanation of the steps it is undertaking to be removed to Red Light Status and the expected timeframe for resolution. A Service Provider's sustained Red Light Status may be grounds for termination of the Agreement as it could prohibit the Service Provider from providing E-rate discounts in a timely manner which would cause harm to the Applicant. More information about FCC Red and Green Light Status may be found at this website: http://www.fcc.gov/debt_collection/welcome.html
- e. Products and services must be delivered before billing and E-rate discounting can commence. At no time may the Service Provider invoice before July 1, 2024.
- f. Prices must be held firm for the duration of the associated E-rate Funding Year(s) or until all work associated with the project is complete (including any Agreement and USAC-approved extensions).
- g. Goods and services provided shall be clearly designated as "E-rate Eligible." Non-eligible goods and services shall be clearly called out as 100% non-eligible or shall be "cost allocated" to show the percentage of eligible costs per USAC guidelines.
- h. For Category 2 equipment or services, within one (1) week of notification of award, the awarded Service Provider must provide the Applicant a bill of materials using a completed and most current and appropriate

version of USACs "Bulk Upload Template" (formerly known as the Item 21 attachment) located at https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/applying-for-discounts/fcc-form-471-filing/. Subsequent schedules of values and invoices must match the Bulk Upload Template and approved Funding Request Line Items or subsequent approved service substitutions. If the service provider's proposal consisted of pricing per eligible location, a summary sheet and summary Bulk Upload Template must be provided to describe the cumulative amount for all sites.

- i. In the event of questions during an E-rate pre-commitment review, post-commitment review, and/or audit inquiry, the awarded Service Provider is expected to reply within 3 days to questions associated with its proposal.
- j. The awarded Service Provider is required to send copies of all forms and invoices to the Applicant prior to invoicing USAC for pre-approval. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the Applicant placing the vendor on an "Invoice Check" with the USAC: https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/invoicing/invoice-check/.
- k. Service providers must comply with the FCC rules for Lowest Corresponding Price ("LCP"). Further details on LCP may be obtained at USAC's website: https://www.usac.org/e-rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/.
- I. Service providers must not propose any equipment or services produced or provided by companies, their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries, found to pose a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain as required by FCC rules. See https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/. Any proposed solution including Covered Equipment or Services as defined by the FCC will be disqualified. If, after award of the project it is found Covered Equipment or Services are included, the award and/or Agreement will be considered to be null and void. See https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain for further information on FCC requirements.
- m. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid Proposals and will be disqualified from consideration.
- n. Any Service Provider proposals identifying contingency fees such as allocations for change orders, tariffs, or other speculative fees not specifically called out for in the scope and/or terms of the RFP/RFB/RFQ will automatically be included in the Proposal price and subject to evaluation unless otherwise specified in the RFP/RFB/RFQ. Contingency fees not pre-approved by the Applicant will not be allowed.

3) SERVICE PROVIDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a. The Service Provider acknowledges that no change in the products and/or services specified in its proposal will be allowed without prior written approval from the Applicant and a USAC service substitution approval with the exception of a Global Service Substitutions. See https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/before-youre-done/service-substitutions/.
- b. The Service Provider acknowledges that all pricing and technology infrastructure information in its Proposal shall be considered as public and non-confidential pursuant to §54.504 (2)(i)(ii).
- c. The Service Provider acknowledges that its offer is considered to be the lowest corresponding price pursuant to § 54.511(b). Service Providers found not to be providing Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) may be required to repay any identified overcharges to USAC. The Service Provider acknowledges that LCP is solely the service provider's responsibility and it will not hold the Applicant liable, or seek reimbursement from any applicant, for any appeals, commitment adjustments or funding recoveries.

- d. The Service Provider attests that its offer does not violate the FCC's Supply Chain certifications included in the FCC Form 473. Supply Chain requirements and certifications can be viewed at USAC's Website: https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/.
- e. This offer is in full compliance with USAC's Free Services Advisory https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/competitive-bidding/free-services-advisory/. There are no free services offered that would predicate an artificial discount and preclude the applicant from paying its proportionate non-discounted share of costs. The Service Provider agrees to provide substantiating documentation to support this assertion should the applicant, USAC, or the FCC request it.

4) STARTING SERVICES/ADVANCE INSTALLATION

Category 1 Services

The annual E-rate Funding Year begins on July 1 and expires on June 30 of each calendar year. Regardless of the Agreement's "effective date," E-rate eligible goods and/or services requested in this RFP/RFB/RFQ shall be delivered no earlier than the start of the 2024 funding year (July 1, 2024). If Category 1 services (Telecommunication Services and Internet access) will begin on or shortly after July 1 of a funding year, the service provider, in some cases, may need to undertake some construction and installation work prior to the beginning of that funding year. Within the limitations indicated below, the infrastructure costs of a service provider can be deemed to be delivered at the same time that the associated Category 1 services begin. That is, if services begin on July 1, then the delivery of service provider infrastructure necessary for those services can be considered as also delivered on July 1. However, NO INVOICING can take place prior to July 1 of the associated Funding Year.

Early Funding Conditions

Category 1

There are four conditions that must be met in order for USAC to provide support in a funding year for Category 1 infrastructure costs incurred prior to that funding year.

- · Initiation of installation cannot take place before selection of the service provider pursuant to a posted Form 470 and in any event no earlier than six months prior to July 1 of the funding year.
- The Category 1 service must depend on the installation of the infrastructure.
- The underlying Category 1 service cannot have a service start date prior to July 1 of the funding year.
- No invoices can be submitted to USAC for reimbursement prior to July 1 of the funding year.

For more information, please refer to the FCC Order involving the Nassau County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (DA 02-3365, released December 6, 2002). This FCC decision only applies to Priority/Category 1 services (telecommunications services and Internet access).

The complete text can be found at the following URL:

https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/starting-services/advance-installation/

Category 2

There are two conditions that allow USAC to provide support in a funding year for Category 2 Internal Connections (equipment and services) incurred prior to that funding year.

Applicants may seek support for Category 2 eligible services purchased on or after April 1, three months prior to the start of funding year on July 1. This will provide schools with the flexibility to purchase equipment in

preparation for the summer recess and provide the maximum amount of time during the summer to install these critical networks.

No invoices can be submitted to USAC for reimbursement prior to July 1 of the funding year.

For more information, please refer to the FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 14-99, released July 23, 2014).

It is important to note NO FCC FORM 474 INVOICING can take place before the Funding Commitment Decision Letter is issued, the FCC Form 486 is approved, and/or prior to July 1 of the funding year.

5) INVOICING

- a. The Service Provider agrees to bill and receive a portion of the payment for the provisions of goods and services described herein directly from USAC via the FCC Form 474 Service Provider Invoice (SPI). The Applicant will only be responsible for paying its non-discounted share of costs and does not intend to use the BEAR process (FCC Form 472). The maximum percentage the Applicant will be liable for is the pre-discount amount minus the funded amount as shown on the FCC Form 471 Funding Request Number ("FRN") and associated FRN Line Items and any identified ineligible costs. Upon the successful receipt or posting of a Funding Commitment Decision Letter from USAC and submission, certification and USAC approval of FCC Form 486, the Applicant shall pay only the discounted amount beginning with the billing cycle immediately following said approval. Alternatively, should the Applicant decide that it is in the best interest of the Applicant to file an FCC Form 472, the Applicant will inform the Service Provider of its intent.
- b. The Service Provider agrees that it will not invoice USAC for equipment or services that have not been delivered to and accepted by the Applicant and installed. If equipment is being drop-shipped to the Applicant and the Applicant is responsible for installing the equipment, the Service Provider may not invoice USAC until equipment is received and accepted by the Applicant.
- c. All Service Provider invoicing to USAC must be completed within 120 days from the last day of service. Should the Service Provider fail to invoice USAC in a timely manner, the Applicant will only be responsible for paying its non-discounted share.

6) FCC/USAC AUDITS

The E-rate program requires that all records be retained for at least ten (10) years from the last date of service provided on a particular funding request. The Service Provider hereby agrees to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to any Agreement resulting from this RFP/RFB/RFQ for ten (10) years after final payment. The Applicant, its authorized agents, and/or auditors reserves the right to perform or have performed an audit of the records of the Service Provider and therefore shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials within a reasonable period of time during said period.

PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL GOODS AND/OR SERVICES AND AGREEMENT TERM

During the term of any Agreement resulting from this RFP/RFB/RFQ, the Applicant may elect to procure additional or like goods and/or services offered by the Service Provider. Such services shall be negotiated and obtained via an official amendment to this Agreement and approval by the Applicant's Governing Board. All terms, conditions, warranties, obligations, maintenance and support of said goods or services shall have a coterminous expiration date with the original date of this Agreement. The Applicant shall not enter into a separate Agreement for said goods or services. Service Providers must state in their proposal that they acknowledge, accept and are in agreement with coterminous expiration conditions.

I, the undersigned, as an authorized agent of (Service Province Pro					
Signature:	_Title:	-			
Phone Number:	_ Email:	_			
Service Provider Name:		_			
Service Provider FCC Registration Number: _					
Service Provider Identification Number:					









