

QUESTION & ANSWER**Bidders Teleconference**

August 26, 2020

9:00 AM


**Request for Proposals - Department of Housing and Community Development Maryland
Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program**

*** The answers below reflect MDBC's response to the presented questions, irrespective of any answers given during the Bidders Conference ***

Attendees:

| Company | Name |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Accutrench | Mark Howard |
| Arundel Underground | Philip Custer |
| Bay Country Communications | Brian Roche |
| BDC | Terry Selby Rob Brown |
| KCI | Nadia Pimentel Arch Noha Diana Jenny Mike Kacher |
| Layer One | Jason Thompson |
| Maryland Broadband Cooperative | Rob Thompson, Chief Operations Officer Gary Ruark, Network Manager Pete Peterman, Project Manager Megan Speake, Projects Coordinator |
| Mclaren Engineering | Caitlin Carbone |
| Pillar Innovations | Jay Savage |
| Skyline Technology Solutions, LLC | Shannon Haworth |

Steve Crawford

Tom Kinch

Brian Hackenberg

Southern Maryland Cable

Billie Tayman

Questions received Pre-Bidders Meeting 8/26/2020

Question #1: Per the MdBC construction standard, 23.2 calls out fiber optic testing using GN Networks Optical Tests Systems Emulations Software. This appears to be older trace report technology. Would MdBC accept OTDR trace reports using EXFO Fast reporter or TRM (Test Results Manager)?

Answer #1: Yes.

Question #2: Subsequently, can we get permission to the EXFO FTB-1? It is a high dynamite OTDR we also use for long-haul OPGW fiber for Electric Utility.

Answer #2: Yes, contractors can use the EXFO FTB-1.

Question #3: Is it acceptable to only bid individual counties, or do all five county RFP need to be submitted for consideration?

Answer #3: Yes, it is acceptable only to bid individual counties or all five counties in the RFP.

Question #4: 2.7 Pole Applications. Does MdBC have an account with joins use applications like SPANS that the winning contractor will utilize? We assume we would also be given MdBC's account number for Verizon owned as the method of their application is singular.

Answer #4 Yes, MdBC will provide information to the awarded contractor regarding SPANS and pole applications.

Questions received during Pre-Bidders Meeting

Question #5: Is MdBC open to a multi-vendor award?

Answer #5: Yes.

Question #6: Is Deer Park canceled or postponed?

Answer #6: Section 3.5 Deer Park is no longer part of the current RFP.

Question #7: What is the timeline for the new Deer Park RFP/ replacement?

Answer#7: MdBC will put out a new RFP in the coming weeks as a replacement for the Deer Park build.

Question #8: Clarify Insurance requirements.

Answer #8: See Construction Master Service Agreement page 11/52, section 16 Insurance. The MSA is located on the webpage at <https://mdbc.us/open-bids>.

Question #9: Clarify the Bid Bond requirements.

Answer #9 The Bid Bond should be \$25,000.

Question #10: Will, the end of lateral runs, need cases?

Answer #10: Yes, all end of lateral runs will need to have a splice case applied with fiber coiled inside.

Question #11: Will MDBC pay for make-ready costs?

Answer #11: Bidders should incorporate estimated make-ready costs per project in their overall bid, identified as a specific line item.

Question #12: Who will be responsible for aerial pole application ride outs?

Answer #12: MDBC will create a ride out schedule for each of the individual projects and make a Project Manager available for a ride out for any bidder who requests a pre-scheduled time.

Question #13: Will MDBC be requesting the use of dielectric or armored cable?

Answer #13: Armored loose tube dry fiber-optic cable.

Question #14: Clarify Key Personnel requirements.

Answer #14: Brief description of primary personnel working on the project(s), including industry experience.