

County of McHenry Request for Qualifications

RFQ# 16-22

Provide Assistance for Long Term Strategy with the County's Fiber Network Asset

February 25, 2016

The County of McHenry, Illinois, hereby solicits qualified and interested firms to submit statements of qualifications ("Qualifications") for providing all services, supervision, labor and equipment necessary to provide the County with Assistance for Long Term Strategy with the County's Fiber Network Asset in accordance with federal, state and local laws and regulations (both current and as amended).

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTY OF MCHENRY: The County of McHenry is a unit of local government in the State of Illinois with a current population of 310,000 as estimated by the US Census Bureau, within its 611 square miles. It is ranked as being one of the fastest growing of Illinois' 102 counties. The governing body is the County Board, which is comprised of twenty-four elected members.

The County has thirteen (13) constructed facilities in various locations totaling approximately 688,000SF.

The County employs approximately 1,300 full and part-time employees in its twenty-eight departments, which are administrated by eight elected officials, and eighteen appointed department heads. McHenry County offers its citizens nursing home care, public health services, public safety through the Sheriff's Department and adult correctional facility, transportation planning, road improvement and maintenance by the Division of Transportation, administrative services available from various offices and a judicial system.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: This is a Request for Sealed Qualifications (see attached). Qualifications will be opened and evaluated in private and submittal information will be kept confidential until a selection is made. **One (1) original and Two (2) copies of the complete Qualifications are to be submitted.**

SUBMISSION LOCATION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

Purchasing Department
McHenry County Administration Building
2200 N. Seminary Avenue Room 200
Woodstock IL 60098

DROP OFF IN PERSON:

Purchasing Department
County Administration Building
667 Ware Road Room 200
Woodstock IL 60098
Phone: (815) 334-4818
Fax: (815) 334-4680

CONTACT PERSON:

Donald A. Gray, CPPB
Director of Purchasing

SUBMISSION DATE AND TIME:

2:00 PM (CST)—March 24, 2016

Qualifications received after the submittal time will be rejected and returned unopened to the sender. (See attached schedule of events)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
February 25, 2016.....	RFQ Available
March 4, 2016 by 4:00 PM.....	All Questions regarding RFQ faxed to Purchasing
March 11, 2016 by 4:00 PM	All Questions answered via Addendum
March 24, 2016 at 2:00 PM.....	RFQ due in Purchasing Office
March 24, 2016 – May 24, 2016.....	Evaluation and Short Listing of Firms

GENERAL INFORMATION

Request for Qualifications

Definition: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is a method of procurement permitting discussions with responsible Professionals and revisions to Qualifications prior to negotiation of a contract. Qualifications will be opened and evaluated in private. Selection will be based on the criteria set forth herein.

Receipt and Handling of Qualifications: Qualifications shall be opened in private by the Evaluation Committee to avoid disclosure of contents to competing Professionals.

Evaluation of Submittal: The Qualifications submitted by Professionals shall be evaluated solely in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFQ.

Evaluation: Evaluation of Qualifications will be done by the County staff. Qualifications will be evaluated on experience in doing projects of a similar nature and adherence to specifications. These criteria are to be utilized in the evaluation of qualifications for development of the short list of Professionals to be considered for interviews and/or potential negotiations. Individual criteria may in all probability be assigned varying weights at the County’s discretion to reflect relative importance. Professionals are required to address each evaluation criteria in the order listed and to be specific in presenting their qualifications.

1. Experience/qualifications of Professional: Professional’s abilities and specific experience; proposed staff and specific staff experience; years in business experience with contracts for services similar in scope. (This includes resumes of all staff to be assigned to County projects).
2. Proposed methodology to complete the services.
3. Capabilities features of the proposed services and the degree to which the services meet the needs of the County.
4. References of only similar contracts. The Professional must have a demonstrated history of professional, reliable and dependable service to governmental entities.
5. Demonstrated quality assurance procedures and schedule to ensure a timely, effective and professional provision of services.

Discussion of Submittal: The Evaluation Committee may conduct discussions with one or more Professionals with whom the County has a previous satisfactory relationship and/or those Professionals who submit acceptable or potentially acceptable Qualifications. Such Professionals shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of Qualifications. During the course of such discussions, the Evaluation Committee shall not disclose any information derived from one submittal to any other Professional. In the event that the County does not have a satisfactory

relationship for services with one or more Professionals, the County shall evaluate the Professionals submitting Qualifications, taking into account qualifications, ability of professional personnel, past record and experience, performance data on file, willingness to meet time requirements, location, workload of the Professional, and such other qualification-based factors as the County may determine in writing are applicable. The County may conduct discussions with and require public presentations by Professionals deemed to be the most qualified regarding their qualifications, approach to the project, and ability to furnish the required services.

On the basis of the evaluations, discussions and presentations, the County shall, unless it has a satisfactory relationship for services with one or more Professionals, select no fewer than three Professionals which it determines to be the most qualified to provide services regarding the specific project. The County shall then contact the Professional ranked most preferred and attempt to negotiate a contract at a fair and reasonable compensation, taking into account the estimated value, scope, complexity, and professional nature of the services to be rendered. If fewer than three Professionals submit Qualifications and the County determines that one or both of those Professionals are so qualified, the County may proceed to negotiate a contract as set forth herein.

Selection Procedure: Selection shall be made of the Professional deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting Qualifications, on the basis of the factors involved in the RFQ.

Selection: It is the intent of the County of McHenry to select the Professional whose Qualifications meet or exceed the requirements as outlined herein. Information and/or factors gathered during interviews, negotiations and any reference checks, in addition to the evaluation criteria stated in the RFQ, and other information or factors deemed relevant by the County, shall be used in the final award decision.

Negotiations:

The County shall prepare a written description of the scope of the proposed services to be used as a basis for negotiations and shall negotiate a contract with the highest qualified Professional at compensation that the County determines in writing to be fair and reasonable. In making this decision the County shall take into account the estimated value, scope, complexity and professional nature of the services to be rendered.

If the County is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the Professional which is most preferred, negotiations with that Professional shall be terminated. The County shall then begin negotiations with the firm which is next preferred. If the County is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with that Professional, negotiations with that Professional shall be terminated. The County shall then begin negotiations with the Professional which is next preferred.

If the County is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected Professionals, the County shall re-evaluate the architectural, engineering or land surveying services requested, including the estimated value, scope, complexity, and fee requirements. The County shall then compile a second list of no fewer than three qualified Professionals and proceed in accordance with the foregoing procedures.

PREVAILING WAGE

The State of Illinois requires under Public Works Contracts that the general prevailing rate of wages in this locality be paid for each craft or type of worker hereunder. This requirement is in accordance with The Prevailing Wage Act, 820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq., as amended. This shall include payment of the general prevailing rate for legal holiday and overtime work. It shall be mandatory upon the subcontractor under the Contractor. A copy of the prevailing wage rates is posted on the McHenry County website at www.co.mchenry.il.us under BIDS and RFP's. If wage rates change during the course of the project, the new rates will be available in the County of McHenry Purchasing Office. Contractors may access the Illinois Department of Labor website for updates at www.state.il.us/agency/idol.

It shall also be mandatory upon the Contractor to whom the Contract is awarded to insert into each subcontract and into the project Specifications for each subcontract a written stipulation to the effect that not less than the prevailing rate of wages shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the Contract. It shall also be mandatory upon each subcontractor to cause to be inserted into each lower tiered subcontract and into the project Specifications for each lower tiered subcontract a stipulation to the effect that not less than the prevailing rate of wages shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the Contract. A Contractor or subcontractor who fails to comply is in violation of the Act.

Notice of Unacceptable Submittal: When the Evaluation Committee determines a Professional's Qualification to be unacceptable, such Professional shall not be afforded an additional opportunity to supplement its Qualification.

Authority: This Request for Qualifications is issued pursuant to applicable provisions of the **McHenry County Purchasing Ordinance**, approved August 1, 2014 and the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act, 50 ILCS 510/1, et seq. If you desire a copy of the **McHenry County Purchasing Ordinance**, please visit the website at www.co.mchenry.il.us (listed under BIDS/RFP Heading)

Reserved Rights: The County of McHenry reserves the right at any time and for any reason to cancel this Request for Qualifications, to reject any or all Qualifications, or to accept an alternate Qualification. The County reserves the right to waive any immaterial defect in any Qualification. ***Unless otherwise specified by the Professional, the County has no fewer than ninety (90) days to make a selection.*** The County may seek clarification from a Professional at any time and failure to respond promptly is cause for rejection.

Incurred Costs: The County of McHenry will not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by respondents in replying to this RFQ.

Selection: Selection shall be made by the McHenry County Board to the responsive, responsible Professional whose Qualification is determined to be the most advantageous to the County, taking into account the evaluation criteria set forth herein.

ADDENDUM: Should the Professional require any additional information about this RFQ, please fax to Purchasing (815-334-4680) any questions by the deadline as outlined in the schedule of events. ANY AND ALL changes to these specifications are valid only if they are included by Written Addendum to All Professionals. NO interpretation of the meaning of the plans, specifications, or other contract documents will be made orally. If required, all addenda will be faxed to Professional if a Notice of Intent to Submit Qualifications has been completed and faxed to the Purchasing Office. In addition, all addenda are posted on the County of McHenry's website. Failure of the Professional to receive any such addendum or interpretation shall not relieve the Professional from obligations under this RFQ as submitted. All addenda so issued shall become part of the Qualification. Failure to request an interpretation constitutes a waiver to a later claim that ambiguities or misunderstandings caused a Professional to improperly submit Qualification.

Rejection Of Qualifications/RFQ's, Waiver Of Irregularities: McHenry County reserves the right to reject any or all Qualifications, to waive irregularities, and to accept that Qualification which is considered to be in the best interest of the County. Any such decision shall be considered final.

Compliance With Laws

The bidder hereto covenants and agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, ordinances, rules and regulations. Failure to comply with the terms of this provision shall constitute a breach of contract and permit the County to terminate this (Request for Sealed Proposal/Bid) in accordance with the termination provisions stated herein.

References: A minimum of three (3) references where services of a similar nature have been provided must be listed as required herein.

DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMISSION:

Qualified individuals or firms are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of the completed Qualifications along with any support documentation in a sealed envelope to:

Donald A. Gray, CPPB
Director of Purchasing
McHenry County Administration Building
2200 N. Seminary Avenue, Room 200
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

All data and documentation submitted as part of this RFQ shall become the property of McHenry County, Illinois. After a contract is executed, all Qualifications, responses, documents, and materials contained in the RFQ shall be considered public information and will be made available for inspection in accordance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

All Qualifications must be received by **2:00 p.m. (CST) on March 24, 2016**. Absolutely no Qualifications will be accepted after the time specified. Late Qualifications shall be rejected and returned unopened to the sender. The County of McHenry does not prescribe the method by which Qualifications are to be transmitted; therefore, it cannot be held responsible for any delay, regardless of reason, in the transmission of Qualifications.

**QUALIFICATIONS ENVELOPES ARE TO BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE RFQ TITLE,
TIME & DATE OF OPENING.**

SCOPE OF WORK:

We are seeking a reputable, experienced company to assist the McHenry County Fiber Network Consortium with development of a long term strategy for its fiber network asset. Specifically, we seek to secure alternative funding thru the long term lease of our fiber network assets, and use those funds to operate and possibly expand the footprint of the existing network. We recognize the importance of high speed broadband via the fiber network asset to the long term economic growth and sustainability of McHenry County and seek expertise in the development of a formal strategy.

The McHenry County Fiber Consortium has excess dark fiber capacity which it would like to market to private entities. We seek to develop economies of scale amongst public entities to reduce costs to our constituents, and develop economic opportunities through private enterprise.

Private enterprise could be a party interested in leasing dark fiber for its sole business use, or leasing dark fiber for the ability to resell to others.

Our fiber network assets include 144 dark strands along the Route 47 corridor thru Woodstock, and 75 dark strands along the Route 14 corridor between Crystal Lake and Woodstock.

THIS PAGE IS MANDATORY.

REFERENCES

List three (3) references that you have done similar work, service or supplied similar products to within the last twelve (12) months (Only correct contact names and phone numbers will be acceptable).

Entity:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone Number:

Contact Person:

Entity:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone Number:

Contact Person:

Entity:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone Number:

Contact Person:

AUTHORIZED NEGOTIATORS:

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Title: _____

THIS PAGE IS MANDATORY.

SUBMITTER OF QUALIFICATIONS CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATIONS

Vendor certifies that it has not been barred from contracting with a unit of State or local government as a result of a violation of Section 33E-3 or 33E-4 of the Criminal Code of 1961, as amended.

_____ Yes _____ No

Vendor certifies that it is aware that all contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12) _____ Yes _____ No

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that _____ is my correct Federal Taxpayer Identification Number. I am doing business as a (please check one):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Agent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Entity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Exempt Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> **Corporation | (IRC 501(a) only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-Profit Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Trust or Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical and Health Care
Services Provider Corporation | |

*State full names, titles and addresses of all responsible principles and/or partners on attached sheet.

I have carefully examined the Request for Qualifications, and any other documents accompanying or made a part of this Request for Qualifications.

I verify that all information contained in this Qualification is truthful to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that I am duly authorized to submit this Qualification on behalf of the firm as its act and deed, and that the firm is ready, willing, and able to perform if awarded the contract.

I further certify, under oath, that this submittal of Qualification is made without prior understanding, agreement, connection, discussion, or collusion with any other person, firm or corporation submitting a submittal for the same product or service. No officer, employee or agent of the County of McHenry or any other Professional is interested in this Qualification and that the undersigned executed this Certification with full knowledge and understanding of the matters therein contained and was duly authorized to do so.

**State of Incorporation _____

THIS PAGE IS MANDATORY.

SIGNATURE PAGE

**RUBBER STAMPED, FAXED, COPIED, OR TYPED SIGNATURE WILL
DISQUALIFY YOUR BID MUST BE AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE**

(Individual - Partnership - Company - Corporation)

(Business Address)

(City, State and Zip Code)

(By Printed Name and Signature)

(Title)

(Witness Signature)

(Title)

(Telephone No)

(Fax No.)

(Date)

(Email)

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