INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Applicant:	**MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**
BEN:	**16080279**
Form 470 #:	**270000762**
Form 470 Contacts:	**Mercedes Hamilton - mhamilton@mecklib.org**
	Robert Rosenthal - rrosenthal@mecklib.org
	Michael Ocampo - mocampo@e-ratecentral.com
	Virginia Libraries - valibraries@e-ratecentral.com

Communications and Questions

All communication with the Applicant regarding this solicitation **must** be by email directed to all "Form 470 Contacts" listed above, with the Form 470 Number included in the subject line. Failure to include all "Form 470 Contacts" could result in questions going unanswered. Verbal inquiries are not allowed. Clarifications, when applicable, will be posted as an attachment/addendum to the Form 470. Each Offeror is responsible for downloading the current version of the Form 470 and attachments, including any addenda. Applicant reserves the right to ask vendors clarifying questions during the proposal review process.

Contact initiated by an Offeror concerning this solicitation with any other Applicant representative other than those listed as Form 470 contacts is prohibited. Unauthorized contact may result in the offeror's disqualification from this solicitation.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals should be emailed to ALL Form 470 Contacts listed above and include the following:

- Applicant name
- Form 470 number
- SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number)
- Service provider's terms and conditions

Proposals **must** include **all** costs associated with providing service, including but not limited to:

- Monthly recurring charges (MRC) include any recurring charge related to delivering the services, such as monthly charges for Internet access, IP addresses, basic terminating equipment, etc.
- Non-Recurring Charges (NRC) include any one-time fee other than special construction charges. This includes but is not limited to installation charges, connection charges, and/or basic terminating equipment charges.
- Special Construction Charges (SPC) include one-time costs for deploying new fiber or upgrading network facilities for eligible entities. These charges are non-recurring and include the following components: construction of network facilities, design and engineering, and project

management. Offerors should provide special construction details sufficient to support E-Rate review, including route feet, cost per foot, and plant mix where applicable.

- Failure to identify the monthly recurring, non-recurring, and special construction charges will result in the disqualification of the proposal. Respondents are encouraged to provide the estimated taxes and surcharges associated with the service. Submissions indicating that there may be additional MRC, NRC, or SPC related to delivering the services **WILL** be disqualified. Any E-Rate ineligible costs should be clearly identified.

Proposals **must** be in response to the specific requirements of this solicitation. Offers including a generic listing of services beyond the scope of this solicitation and/or encyclopedic price lists will be disqualified. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

Applicant reserves the right to consider its existing service as a standing proposal and evaluate it against the other submitted proposals.

Service Requirements

Mecklenburg County Public Library requires Internet Access bundled with Transport service for 200 Mbps minimum and up to 500 Mbps maximum bandwidth speeds requested to the locations specified below. Applicant does not require symmetrical service. Service providers are requested to submit offers for reasonable incremental bandwidths.

Entity	Street Address	Current Service Received
Boydton Library	1294 Jefferson Street, Boydton, VA 23917	250 Mbps x 25 Mbps
Burnett Library & Learning Center	914 Virginia Avenue, Clarksville, VA 23927	300 Mbps x 25 Mbps
Butler Memorial Library	515 N Marshall Street, Chase City, VA 23924	250 Mbps x 25 Mbps
R T Arnold Library	110 E Danville Street, South Hill, VA 23970	250 Mbps x 25 Mbps

Offers should be at least equal to each location's current download speed shown above.

Offerors should provide the cost for 1 static IP address (at least).

Offerors should provide router/modem lease options and pricing.

To be considered, services **must** be within the specified bandwidth range. Offerors not proposing at least the minimum speed will be rejected. In addition to the specified minimum and maximum bandwidths, Service Providers are encouraged to offer a variety of bandwidth options within this range.

All solutions must terminate service or infrastructure at the demarcation point within the building, generally, the MDF. Solutions that only bring service to the property line but not to the demarcation point

will be disqualified. The agreement must terminate service at an MDF designated by the Applicant. The Offeror should specify the exact demarcation setup included in the base fees, such as wall-mounted CPE and CAT6a handoff, rack mount patch panel, etc.

Offerors must accept responsibility for site delivery, construction, permitting, pathway, and right-of-way costs required to deliver service.

Contract Term and Modifications

Services are needed effective July 1, 2027. If the service cannot be guaranteed by this date, this should be indicated in the proposal, along with an estimated timeline for when the service will be available.

Offers of month-to-month or contracted services will be considered. Service providers submitting proposals for contracted service are requested to provide 36-month or 60-month pricing. Offerors are also asked to provide voluntary extensions for two (2) additional twelve (12) month terms.

All contracts should permit bandwidth increases during the term. Any such increases, including those during optional renewal periods, will be treated as modifications to the existing agreement rather than new agreements and, therefore, will **NOT** extend the contract's term.

All contracts should include a provision allowing for early termination of circuits without penalty if a location is closed by the Applicant.

All contracts should include a clause allowing additional sites to be added at the existing MRC for the duration of the agreement, with the Applicant covering any one-time charges related to adding the new site to the network. Any additional sites added will have the same end date as the main agreement.

No price increases will be permitted during the term of the agreement.

Service providers proposing equipment whose prices may increase depending upon new U.S. government tariffs imposed on imports are encouraged to (a) identify such products in their offers, and (b) propose an acceptable methodology for limiting price adjustments over the life of the contract.

Subject to contract restrictions, services may be reevaluated for cost-effectiveness at any time during the life of the agreement including renewal periods.

E-Rate Specific Considerations/Information

FCC rules require vendors to offer discounted SPI billing.

Per USAC E-Rate rules, “cost of eligible services” will be the highest valued criterion in the evaluation process; however, other criteria with a lesser value may also be considered.

By submitting a proposal on the requested services herein, the vendor certifies its proposed services and/or products comply with Parts 47 Section 54.9 and 54.10 of the FCC rules which prohibits the sale, provision, maintenance, modification, or other support of equipment or services provided or manufactured by Huawei, ZTE, or any other covered company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. See https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/ for more details.

As required by Section 54.500(f) of Part 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations all bids in response to this RFP **must** offer the lowest corresponding price (LCP) which is defined as the lowest price that a service provider charges to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-Rate applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services. See https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/ for more details.

Additional Considerations/Information

Mecklenburg County Public Library is subject to the VA Public Procurement Act.

The language in this solicitation has been standardized: "must," "shall," "mandatory," and "required" indicate mandatory specifications that the Applicant expects in the proposed solution. Proposals failing to meet these will be disqualified. "Should" and "may" indicate desirable specifications. A mandatory requirement may be waived if all respondents fail to meet a mandatory requirement.

Applicant reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals received.

Offerors must accept that Applicant obligations are contingent on appropriation and availability of funds and may be reduced or terminated without penalty if funds are unavailable.

Applicant reserves the right to award all, part or none of the services set forth in this procurement. This procurement does not obligate Applicant until a valid agreement and/or valid Purchase Order is executed.

The vendor submission is subject to open records requests and, as such, the records will be released in accordance with those policies. Vendors are encouraged to mark pages as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” as appropriate, but the entire submission may not be marked as such. Identifying information as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” does not guarantee that the information will not be released but will be considered in determining whether the information is required to be released in accordance with the open records policies. Generally, pricing is not exempt from being publicly released.

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that no relationship exists between the Offeror and Applicant that would interfere with a fair and open competition or is a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

The cost of E-Rate eligible services will carry the greatest weight in the evaluation. Other factors that may

be considered include but are not limited to E-Rate ineligible costs, overall/long-term cost to the Applicant, technical merit/capability of the offer, the Applicant's prior experience with the vendor, local preference, meets/understands needs and/or completeness of the vendor's proposal response. The Applicant reserves the right to weigh these criteria as it deems appropriate, or not at all, and may consider additional factors not listed above. In the event of a tie, the award will be made to the Offeror with the lowest total cost of E-Rate eligible services over the contract term.