

CATEGORY 2 EQUIPMENT SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Applicant: Ruidoso Municipal School District
BEN: 143371
Form 470 #: 270001540
Form 470 Contacts: Steven Van Duyn vanduyns@ruidososchools.org / Jennifer Williams jwilliams@e-ratecentral.com

Procurement Timeline

Task	Due By
Issue Date	See Form 470 Certification Date
Deadline to Submit Questions	10/26/2026 10:00 AM MDT
Posting of Questions/Clarifications	10/28/2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	11/30/2026 10:00 AM MST

Communications and Questions

All communication with the Applicant regarding this solicitation **must** be emailed and received by the “Deadline to Submit Questions” noted in the “Procurement Timeline.” Questions should be 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.

Product demonstration meetings will not be granted during the competitive bidding period – requests for such will be ignored.

Site Visit

For this solicitation, a site visit is: ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Offered

Proposal Instructions

Proposals **must** be submitted by the Proposal Submission Deadline in the Procurement Timeline.

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
- Completed Pricing Attachment

Proposals **must** include all costs associated with providing the requested products/services to the applicant including but not limited to shipping fees, licenses, and any component needed for the proposed equipment to function properly.

In addition to or in place of a service provider's standard quote format, proposal pricing should be included in the provided Ruidoso Pricing Attachment and be submitted in Excel or equivalent format.

Proposed service fees for each piece of equipment should:

- be shown as unit pricing with separate line-item charges for each SKU,
- identify the percentage of each SKU that is eligible for E-Rate support as agreed upon by USAC and the manufacturer; and
- be categorized as Internal Connections (IC), Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC), and/or Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS).

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.

Existing Network Environment

The Applicant intends to procure network infrastructure that integrates effectively with its existing environment while supporting future growth and modernization.

The Applicant's current network environment includes, but is not limited to:

Core and Distribution Infrastructure

Manufacturer: Extreme

Models: 5520, 5420M

Current software versions: 9.4.1

Routing protocols in use: Static Routing

Existing VLAN architecture and segmentation strategy. Multiple VLANs at each location for data, Wi-Fi, etc.

Wireless Infrastructure

Manufacturer: Extreme

Wireless management platform: Cloud-managed platform

Number of access points: 208

Current wireless standards supported: Wi-Fi 6

Network Security Infrastructure

Firewall platform(s): Barracuda F600 Rev D

Authentication services: MS Active Director, Google Workspace

RADIUS/TACACS+ services: Local RADIUS Server

Network Management and Monitoring

Network monitoring platforms: PRTG

Physical Infrastructure

Fiber optic infrastructure: Both

Copper cabling infrastructure: Cat6

Existing transceiver standards: SFP+

Power-over-Ethernet requirements: PoE+

Equipment/Service Request

The applicant requests proposals for new E-Rate eligible Category 2 equipment.

Equipment Scope of Work

Proposals are requested for the makes/models specified in the provided Ruidoso Pricing Attachment (or equivalent). Offers containing alternative makes/models are required to submit product specifications and documentation to establish that the equipment is equivalent to the requested solution. The applicant will be the arbiter of whether the proposed solution is functionally and technically equivalent to the requested solution.

The quantities requested are the applicant's best estimate and may be adjusted based on the offeror's recommendations. The applicant reserves the right to increase or reduce quantities and buy some, all, or none of the listed equipment.

Proposals featuring equipment that is used, open box, refurbished, or categorized in any way other than new will be disqualified.

Partial offers **will not** be considered.

Installation Scope of Work

For this solicitation, vendor installation services are: ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Requested

Delivery

All equipment and/or materials under this solicitation shall be delivered to the following location(s):

- Ruidoso Administration Building 200 Horton Circle, Ruidoso, NM 88345

Contract Requirements

Offers will only be accepted from vendors that can provide pricing from a “valid purchasing vehicle.” For purposes of this solicitation, a “valid purchasing vehicle” is defined as any purchasing vehicle that will allow the Applicant to purchase services in a manner consistent with State and Local bidding rules without issuing a formal procurement. Examples of a “valid purchasing vehicle” include existing contracts that were bid in compliance with State and Local Law, State Master Contracts, and contracts awarded to other entities where the Applicant can “piggy-back” off that contract.

Vendors **must** clearly identify the “valid purchasing vehicle” that forms the basis of their pricing. Applicant will be the ultimate arbiter of whether the pricing is based off a “valid purchasing vehicle.” The Offeror **must** comply with the terms and conditions of the underlying “valid purchasing vehicle.”

The applicant prefers a multi-year agreement (term dates April 1, 2027 – September 30, 2029). An initial award term of April 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028, with one optional renewal to align with an extended E-Rate service delivery deadline, if needed, is also acceptable. For licenses applicant is requesting a contract term of five years (term dates July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2032).

The quoted pricing must not assume the applicant will purchase the full quantities listed in the proposal.

The applicant reserves the right to place orders as needed and is not obligated to order all products or services.

Substitutions for alternative equipment must be agreed upon in writing by both parties before finalization of any changes/deviations from the original agreed-upon equipment list.

Offerors 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 contract term.

E-Rate Specific Considerations

Options for Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections and Managed Internal Broadband Services were selected out of an abundance of caution. The Applicant is not requesting time-and-materials basic maintenance services and is not requesting managed internal broadband services. These checkboxes were selected solely to ensure compliance in the unlikely event that USAC determines that any element of the proposed solution constitutes software or right-to-use licensing that should be treated or supported similarly under Category 2 eligibility rules.

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.

Service providers proposing a temporary equipment loan for product demonstration and/or evaluation purposes are **required** to clearly state that such loans are of limited duration. Product demos extending beyond thirty (30) days must be explicitly authorized by both parties and provided at a fair market rate.

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 offers in response to this solicitation **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

Applicant is subject to New Mexico policy restrictions.

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 request Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from one or more Offerors. BAFOs must be received by the date and time specified during discussions or negotiations. If an Offeror does not submit a BAFO by the stated deadline, Applicant will evaluate that Offeror based on its originally submitted proposal. If BAFOs are requested, Applicant reserves the right to conduct a subsequent evaluation and scoring of proposals, including any revised pricing and other information submitted in response to the BAFO request, in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this solicitation.

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.

Applicant reserves the right, subject to applicable procurement requirements and E-Rate rules, to make non-material modifications to the awarded contract and to add or remove eligible locations, quantities, equipment, or services when such changes remain within the general scope of the original procurement.

Applicant may, at its sole discretion, extend the due date for the submission of proposals and any extensions shall be made via an addendum posted in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC).

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 fair and open competition or create a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

These criteria are to be utilized in the evaluation of offers to be considered. Individual criteria have been assigned a weight to reflect relative importance. Vendors are encouraged to provide details in their proposals that address the following criteria.

Criteria	Description	Weight
E-Rate Eligible Costs	Total cost of E-Rate eligible components, including equipment, licenses, installation, shipping, and any associated eligible services, as applicable.	25%
E-Rate Ineligible Costs	Total cost of E-Rate ineligible components, including equipment, licenses, installation, shipping, and any associated ineligible services, as applicable.	7%
Technical Compliance and Functionality	Degree to which the proposed solution meets or exceeds the Applicant's functional requirements, performance needs, and technical specifications.	15%
Compatibility with Existing Network Infrastructure	The extent to which the proposed equipment and associated software can integrate with, interoperate with, and be managed alongside the Applicant's existing network environment without requiring significant replacement of existing infrastructure, additional licensing, or substantial operational changes.	15%
Management and Operational Efficiency	Ease of administration, centralized management capabilities, monitoring, reporting, and automation features that reduce operational burden.	12%

Compliance with Solicitation Requirements	Completeness of proposal, adherence to submission requirements, E-Rate compliance, and responsiveness to requested information.	10%
Prior Experience	Applicant's own past experience with this vendor's performance and service quality, if any	10%
Budget Consistency	Whether the proposed cost fits within the applicant's available Category 2 budget and 5-year Budget Allowance	6%